

Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Mar 27, 2025 - Regular Meeting
Category	2. Meeting Opening - 7:00 p.m.
Subject	2.06 Transgender Day of Visibility Proclamation
Type	Action
Recommended Action	That the School Board approve the Transgender Day of Visibility Proclamation.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Transgender Day of Visibility is observed annually on March 31 to celebrate the lives and contributions of transgender people while raising awareness of the discrimination, challenges, and violence the transgender community continues to face; and

WHEREAS, Transgender Day of Visibility began in 2009 in response to the lack of recognition for living transgender people, shifting focus from solely memorializing those lost to violence to also uplifting the achievements and resilience of the community; and

WHEREAS, all transgender people have inherent worth and are deserving of respect and dignity, from well-known historical and public figures to those for whom it is not safe to live their authentic lives. Wherever they are on their journey, they are seen, they are valued, and valid.

WHEREAS, transgender people have made significant contributions throughout history and across various fields, including early LGBTQIA+ rights movement activists like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera; artists such as Laverne Cox, Elliot Page, and Hunter Schafer; leaders like Sarah McBride, the first openly transgender member of Congress and Virginia State Senator Danica Roem, the first openly transgender state legislator; scientists like distinguished neurobiologist Dr. Ben Barres, and Dr. Lynn Conway, whose innovations revolutionized computer science; and countless others whose courage, resilience, and achievements have advanced equality and inspired others; and

WHEREAS, despite progress toward increased representation and awareness, transgender people continue to experience disproportionate levels of violence and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, already in 2025, nearly 700 anti-trans bills are under consideration in state legislatures, seeking to block access for

transgender people to basic healthcare, housing, employment, education services, legal recognition, and more; and

WHEREAS, major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Psychiatric Association, have affirmed the validity of transgender identities and support age-appropriate gender-affirming care as evidence-based, medically necessary treatment that significantly improves health outcomes for transgender people; and

WHEREAS, transgender youth face significantly higher rates of mental health challenges, largely due to discrimination, rejection, and lack of affirmation, underscoring the critical importance of supportive environments in schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, schools play a vital role in creating affirming and inclusive environments where transgender students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, with research demonstrating that transgender youth who feel supported in their identities show significantly improved educational outcomes, decreased absenteeism, reduced psychological distress, and enhanced overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County School Board stands with and celebrates its transgender students, families, and staff, recognizing the urgency of its charge to foster a responsive, caring, and inclusive culture where all students, including those who are transgender, are affirmed and can live without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairfax County School Board proclaims March 31, 2025, as **Transgender Day of Visibility** in Fairfax County Public Schools and encourages all to promote a caring culture of equity, inclusivity, and respect for transgender people, not only on this special day but throughout the entire year as well.

Motion & Voting

That the School Board approve the Transgender Day of Visibility Proclamation.

Motion by Karl V Frisch - Chair, second by Rachna S Heizer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Marcia St John-Cunning, Robyn Lady, Ilryong Moon, Rachna S Heizer, Karl V Frisch - Chair, Sandy B Anderson - Vice Chair, Kyle McDaniel, Ricardy J Anderson, Ryan McElveen, Seema Dixit, Melanie K Meren