

Resolution 2021R-012

By Director Miller

WHEREAS, Black, Brown, Indigenous and other students of color have faced racism, discrimination and harassment throughout the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, In *Barr v. Lafon*, the Sixth Circuit court ruled that it is not a violation of First Amendment rights for a school board to prohibit, in a viewpoint-neutral manner, students from wearing those racially divisive symbols that the school reasonably forecasts would substantially and materially disrupt schoolwork and school discipline; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin school districts, including Tomah and Burlington, have taken action to ban the Confederate flag from their schools while other districts, such as Baraboo, are fighting litigation over the display of the flag; and

WHEREAS, Wearing of Confederate flags, a symbol of white supremacy, slavery and racism, on clothing continues to be used and allowed to intimidate African American students and their allies; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Representatives to Congress recently voted against removing Confederate monuments in the U.S. Capitol which encourages displays of white supremacy in our schools;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin school districts' policy and practice must affirmatively state and enforce that they are anti-racist institutions that outlaw racist conduct and language and will discipline behavior that violates racist conduct; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Milwaukee Public Schools hereby bans racist language and slurs, both spoken and written, as well as the display of racist symbols of the Confederacy including the Confederate Flag and encourages all Wisconsin school districts to do the same; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Milwaukee Public Schools encourages the creation of anti-racist ethnic studies classes in all school districts and the integration of anti-racist curriculum at all grade levels; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board directs the district lobbyists and its delegates to and representatives to educational organizations (WASB, etc.) to lobby for state law that both forbid Confederate flags and symbols in state institutions and public schools and mandates implementation of ethnic studies in all school districts.

Introduced July 30, 2020