Transgender Task Force

Statement of Solidarity

The Livingston and Washtenaw Counties Transgender Task Force stands strong with the students and families of color in Washtenaw County, MI.

This statement has been prompted by recent local and national media attention to racist incidents happening within our local schools, districts, county, and state. We regret not formally and publicly sharing this statement sooner and commit to publicly being action-oriented starting immediately and moving forward indefinitely.

Our efforts on the Transgender Task Force are not mutually exclusive from those efforts working to address racism and white supremacy in our schools. As Kimberlé Crenshaw said, “It’s not simply that there’s a race problem here, a gender problem here, and a class or LGBTQ problem there.” Young people tell us that they are experiencing racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism, fatphobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and/or other forms of oppression on a regular basis and, oftentimes, one individual student is experiencing two or more of these forms of oppression at once. This intersectionality of identities is about interlocking systems of oppression affecting young people in unique ways that impact their ability to learn and thrive in our communities. Without addressing intersectionality, we will perpetuate the systems of power and oppression that we aim to dismantle.

Transgender people navigate the world through multiple identities, including race, religion, ability, body size, sexual orientation, and a multitude of other identities. The Task Force is committed to breaking down the silos in our work to join our movements. We must address the intersectionality of marginalized identities and work together to deconstruct systems that oppress one or more of these identities.

We stand with Saline students in their call to action. Their statement of demands provides all of us a roadmap to creating anti-racist educational learning environments.

Click here for the Livingston and Washtenaw Counties Transgender Task Force Letter of Commitment.
The Livingston and Washtenaw Counties Transgender Task Force works to ensure that all schools in Livingston and Washtenaw County school districts are safe, supportive, and affirming environments for all students by developing and promoting gender-inclusive practices and policies and by providing guidance and other resources to educators. Members include administrators, educators, parents, students, medical professionals, and representatives from local community-based organizations from across the counties. The Task Force is coordinated by Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Livingston Educational Service Agency, and the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health.