



The Traverse City Human Rights Commission

A Resolution In Support Of Accessible Gender Neutral Bathrooms Within TCAPS

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission strives to ensure human dignity through advocacy, education, negotiation, and information to ensure understanding and respect among all residents of and visitors to Traverse City; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission was formed with a purpose to foster mutual understanding and respect among all groups and to discourage discriminatory practices, to formulate and carry out programs of community education and information, receive and act as conciliator regarding occurrences of acts of prejudice or discrimination, and secure the cooperation of various community groups in educational campaigns devoted to eliminating prejudice and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, members of the community appeared at a public meeting on March 13, 2017, to inform the Human Rights Commission of experiences of discrimination and prejudice and in support of an effort to ensure safe and accessible access to public restrooms for all individuals; and

WHEREAS, members of the community shared personal stories of discrimination, embarrassment, humiliation, and physical ailments from lack of available gender-neutral, private, and safe restrooms and changing areas; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission is aware that the Michigan State Board of Education adopted a Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students on September 14, 2016 ; and


WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission accepts and endorses the data upon which the Statement and Guidance is premised; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission accepts and endorses the recommendations contained in the Statement and Guidance as practices that will ensure human dignity for LGBTQ students, eliminate discrimination and prejudice, and foster mutual respect and understanding; and

WHEREAS, this issue implicates equal protection issues under the Constitution as well as federal laws such as Title VII and Title IX that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Human Rights Commission recommends that the Traverse City Area Public Schools take immediate action to implement the Statement and Guidance.

Signed:


Taylor Nash, Chairman
Human Rights Commission