

## RESOLUTION

### Bronte ISD School Health Advisory Council

#### Recommendation Against Bullying in Texas Public Schools

Date: January 2016

WHEREAS, the Texas Education Code defines bullying as “engaging in written or verbal expression or physical conduct that a school district board of trustees or the board’s designee determines will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student’s property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or of damage to the student’s property; or is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive emotional environment for a student”; and

WHEREAS, bullying may take many forms including physical bullying; threatening; hitting; stealing; damaging personal property; teasing or name-calling; social exclusion; peer sexual harassment; bullying about race, ethnicity, religion, disability (physical, cognitive , or emotional), sexual orientation, and gender identity; and cyber bullying (bullying through email, text messaging, social media, or other digital means); and

WHEREAS, students with visible physical/emotional challenges (cerebral palsy, obesity, muscular dystrophy, amputations, alopecia, attention deficit/hyperactivity, bipolar disorder, autism, etc.) and students with less obvious health challenges (food allergies, asthma, diabetes, learning disabilities, etc.) are both uniquely vulnerable and disproportionately impacted by bullying; and

WHEREAS, bullying and harassment can greatly impact a student’s ability to concentrate and perform in the classroom and extracurricular activities; adversely affect all aspects of a student’s health and well-being and contribute to excessive absences from school; and result in physical illness, mental and emotional anguish, and/or long-term social and emotional consequences; and

WHEREAS, bullying other students and being the target of bullying are considered risk factors for youth violence by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), and bullies whose behavior goes unchallenged risk ending up as violent adults, engaging in domestic violence and child abuse; and

WHEREAS, those who stand by passively watching or actively encouraging bullying are also impacted by these hostile acts; they encourage bullying by creating an audience, may become insensitive to cruelty, may learn to imitate bullying behavior and become bullies themselves, and/or may be fearful for their own safety, adding to their own insecurity; and

WHEREAS, incidents of reported bullying and harassment in the nation and Texas indicate that bullying involves increasing numbers of students in all socio-economic backgrounds, racial groups, and in areas of varying population density; and

WHEREAS students with disabilities or who are lesbian, gay, transgender, or perceived to be so, are at particularly high risk of being bullied by their peers;

WHEREAS, the Texas School Health Advisory Council fully supports efforts of the school community to implement strategies for addressing bullying in all forms in order to provide safer and environmentally positive schools to ensure opportunities for student success;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Bronte ISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) support policies and programs that have demonstrated effectiveness in addressing the prevention, intervention, and ultimate elimination of all types bullying in schools as part of a coordinated school health effort in all Texas schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bronte ISD SHAC fully support efforts to improve school climate and school connectedness for all students, and call upon all schools and school communities to respond to school-related bullying incidents with a renewed commitment to ensuring every student respects and accepts all people by implementing programs and strategies in which targets of bullying can be identified and assisted, and individuals that bully can be educated, in order to create safer schools that provide positive learning environments for all students.

Approved and adopted the 20 day of January, 2016. We, the undersigned, hereby certify the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Bronte ISD SHAC.

<u>Jackie Zimmerman</u>	<u>Louisa Pehls</u>
<u>Sammy Nortenstine</u>	<u>Laurie Austin</u>
<u>Serita Taylor</u>	_____
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<u>Kaci Hellis</u>	_____
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