

**Resolution in Support of LGBTQ+ Youth in Somerville**

**WHEREAS**, experts indicate that upwards of 40% of unhoused youth identify as LGBTQ+; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Trevor Project, 42% of LGBTQ+ youth expressed suicidal thoughts in 2020, and 94% of them said the recent political climate has had a negative effect on their mental health; and

**WHEREAS**, recent surveys by Somerville’s Department of Health and Human Services suggest that Somerville’s LGBTQ+ youth face similar crises, especially our genderqueer students; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021 and 2022, anti-LGBTQ+ youth voices have only grown in volume and power, and some have or seek to legislate discriminatory positions; and

**WHEREAS**, Somerville Public Schools stands for the education and health of every child; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that a commitment to equity requires a special commitment to our LGBTQ+ youth; and

**WHEREAS**, that commitment must extend past the schoolhouse doors,

**NOW THEREFORE**; be It

**RESOLVED**; that the Somerville School Committee reaffirm our support for the rights and dignities of LGBTQ+ youth; and FURTHER

**RESOLVED**: that Somerville Public Schools will continue to develop and improve its supports for LGBTQ+ youth; and FURTHER

**RESOLVED**: that those supports be made available to all Somerville youth who desire them, not just Somerville Public School students; and be it FURTHER

**RESOLVED**: that the Somerville Public Schools will work with the City of Somerville to ensure that; AND FURTHER

**RESOLVED** that the Administration work with the Rules Subcommittee of the Somerville School Committee to address any policies, procedures and practices that may need to be changed to ensure that availability.

Voted: Unanimously

Date: April 25, 2022

By: Somerville School Committee