

RESOLUTION NO. 202021-3
CONVERTING ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO A BY-ZONE SYSTEM

WHEREAS the current process to become an elected school board member for the Salem-Keizer School District has structural barriers making it difficult for people of color to run and to win; and

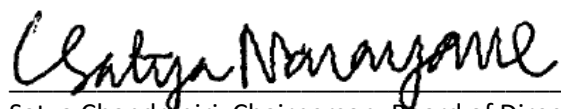
WHEREAS it is incumbent on the current elected officials to recognize the obstacles hindering electing a diverse representation of leaders; and

WHEREAS the Salem-Keizer School Board has the ability under Oregon Revised Statute 332.126 to change the voting structure for school board members from an elected at-large system to an elected by-zone system, thereby allowing individual communities within the district boundaries to elect a representative of their choice; and

WHEREAS this action demonstrates the Salem-Keizer School Board's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by removing systemic barriers to becoming an elected school board member; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Salem-Keizer School Board recognizes the importance of this action and agrees to (1) undertake a comprehensive community process for public input that exceeds the public process requirements in House Bill 3310 (2019) by including multiple townhalls and inviting election experts to consider a zone based and other additional best practice election improvements or reforms if needed based on the outcome of the community process and (2) work with legal counsel and the county election offices of Marion and Polk counties to move to a system of school board election by zones if determined by the community process and that will also include a process for drawing zones using fair and measurable criteria to prevent political gerrymandering; (3) adopt the new elections process in a time established through partnership of county elections offices by Fall of 2022 in order to apply by May 2023 elections in compliance with House Bill 3310 (2019).

Adopted this 15th day of March, 2021.



Satya Chandragiri, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Salem-Keizer Public Schools