San Leandro Unified School District

Governing Board Proclamation

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH
FEBRUARY 2017

WHEREAS, one in three adolescents in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, verbal, digital abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

WHEREAS, dating violence often involves the use of inappropriate actions to control a partner or resolve conflicts. These behaviors can be physical, emotional, or sexual, and can take place in person or with the use of technology and social media; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship ever tell anyone about the abuse, and 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is an issue; and

WHEREAS, young people victimized by a dating partner are more likely to engage in self-injurious or high-risk behaviors, to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships, and to experience mental health or emotional challenges; and

WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships, creating an environment that does not condone relationship violence and by training adults who work youth so that they may recognize when teens are exhibiting signs of dating violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, all teens have the right to a safe and healthy relationship, built on respect, trust and equality, where consent is respected and is free from physical and emotional abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Diana J. Prola, Board President**,** do hereby proclaim February 2017,Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, throughout the San Leandro Unified School District. I urge all San Leandro residents to work toward ending teen dating violence by empowering young people, assisting victims in accessing the information and supportive services they need, creating better and more resources for young people in need, instituting effective intervention and prevention policies in schools and engaging in discussions with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet epidemic of teen dating violence.

Diana J. Prola
Board President
San Leandro Unified School District