

June 30, 2021

The FCFT Executive Board's Statement of Support for LGBTQIA+ Students and Staff

In recognition of Pride Month and especially in light of the events at the Loudoun County School Board meeting last Tuesday, the FCFT executive board expresses our unequivocal support for the LGBTQIA+ community, and in particular, the trans and gender-expansive students, staff, and family members that are a part of FCPS. We stand alongside our colleagues and students in FCPS' LGBTQIA+ organizations including FCPS Pride and the student-led Pride Liberation Project in FCPS in speaking out against the homophobic and transphobic hate present in our community and standing up for our trans and gender-expansive students.

We have seen a rise in anti-LGBTQIA+ hate spread through our own community, in neighboring districts such as Loudoun, and in the communities of our fellow educators across the country. We firmly denounce the hateful actions of groups who have been spreading fear in our community, including those who created an unsafe climate at the Loudoun County School Board meeting last week.

Our public schools are for every student. As educators, we have a duty to ensure that each of our students feel safe and respected when they are in our care. We commit to working toward creating a safe space for LGBTQIA+ students to be their authentic selves in our schools and we call on our colleagues to ensure this is true in every FCPS classroom, bus, cafeteria, locker room, and sports field.

We applaud the members of the FCPS School Board who are standing up for LGBTQIA+ students and staff both in their words and their actions. We support the recent changes to the FLE curriculum to better represent the families of our students. We support the statements that School Board members have made denouncing the homophobic and transphobic language used in KKK flyers and public comments speeches. And we appreciate FCPS releasing [comprehensive information on the website](#) about the policies and regulations supporting and protecting trans and gender-expansive students.

We echo the calls from FCPS' LGBTQIA+ organizations for FCPS leadership to continue to take concrete actions in support of trans and gender-expansive students by:

- Firmly denounce homophobic and transphobic harassment, including intentionally misgendering and deadnaming trans students and staff, and have clear solutions for when this harassment occurs in our school system.
- Create a culture of using the correct names and pronouns for trans and gender-expansive students and staff.

And finally, to FCFT's LGBTQIA+ members: we see you, we stand with you, and we are here for you. If you have been targeted or discriminated against in your work because of your identity, our member specialists are here to support you. Reach out to the FCFT office by calling (703) 451-6840 or emailing info@fcft.org.

The Fairfax County Federation of Teachers Executive Board

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