

Resolution

The Importance of Increasing Diversity at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Whereas the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) is a selective Governor's Magnet School for Northern Virginia with limited enrollment;

Whereas the opportunity for enrollment at TJHSST should be a realistic option for talented students from the entire Northern Virginia region who are interested in mathematics, science, and technology;

Whereas a diverse group of students who are African-American, Native American, Hispanic, low-income, female and from certain middle schools in the Northern Virginia region are significantly under-represented in the student body at TJHSST.

Whereas a diverse student body that better reflects the make-up of our Northern Virginia community would benefit and contribute to the education of all TJHSST students, by offering them diverse experiences, prior to entering university or the world of work, that will enable TJHSST students to work in teams composed of representatives of all different groups;

Whereas a recent United States Supreme Court decision affirmed that, in making admissions decisions, educational institutions may consider the benefits of diversity for purposes of their educational goals, the perception of opportunity by their applicants, and their potential service to the broader community after their students graduate;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax County School Board should affirm its commitment to ensuring a student body at TJHSST that reflects the makeup of our Northern Virginia community.

Be it further resolved that the Fairfax County School Board should permit consideration of factors relating to diversity of the TJHSST student body in the admissions process at TJHSST for all students beginning with the Class of 2008.

Approved by the PTSA Board of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

December 8, 2003

Patrick Rizzuto, President

Marsha Runnigen, Recording Secretary