

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Fred A. Seaman was an educator, a politician, and an exalted cyclops in the Ku Klux Klan; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan was at the height of its national popularity, having up to four million members. "Klan tickets" listed favored candidates for state and local offices, as the Ku Klux Klan sought to influence government and public education. Fred A. Seaman both endorsed and ran on such a ticket; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1920, Seaman Rural High School came into existence, being the vision of Fred A. Seaman. The new high school incorporated nine grade-school districts. Students voted to name the high school after Fred A. Seaman; and

**WHEREAS**, covering over 84 square miles of northern Topeka and rural Shawnee County, Kansas, Seaman USD 345 district has approximately 3,800 students; and

**WHEREAS**, Seaman USD 345 prides itself on being an increasingly diverse school district that values and supports the personal identities of all of its school students and staff, while acknowledging that more work must be done to address the issues of racism and bullying that negatively affect the educational experiences of some students and staff.

**WHEREAS**, businesses, churches, and other community entities located within the boundary of Seaman USD 345 are also named Seaman after the schools in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Seaman USD 345 has a history of over 100 years during which those who live, work, and go to school in the district have made the Seaman community a place where they are proud to call home;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SEAMAN USD 345:**

**Section 1.** The actions, conduct, and beliefs of Fred A. Seaman in regard to his involvement with the Ku Klux Klan are condemned by the Seaman USD 345 Board of Education. The racist beliefs of the Ku Klux Klan and its members, including Fred A. Seaman, are contrary to those who live, work, and go to school in Seaman USD 345. These racist beliefs are revolting, vile, and have no place in a civilized society.

**Section 2.** All references to Fred A. Seaman, including his image and likeness, shall be removed and permanently banned from all district buildings, except as set forth herein.

**Section 3.** The high school student museum class is encouraged to create an exhibit in the museum that focuses on Fred A. Seaman's repulsive involvement and association with the Ku Klux Klan. Fred A. Seaman's repugnant participation with the Ku Klux Klan should not be allowed to disappear into history.

**Section 4.** Seaman USD 345 must continue to address the issues of racism and bullying that occur in our schools and throughout our community. The district must engage the community in discussions about diversity, while celebrating the fact that others' experiences may be different than ours.

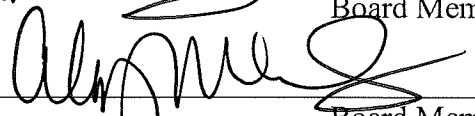
**Section 5.** Seaman USD 345 disavows any association with Fred A. Seaman. From this point forward, the district, and its buildings, shall be associated with the Seaman community and its long and proud history that has developed over the past 100 plus years, not the individual who initially founded the high school.

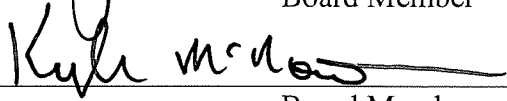
**ADOPTED** by the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 345, Shawnee County, Kansas, this 8 day of November 2021.

By:

  
Board President


  
Board Member

  
Board Member

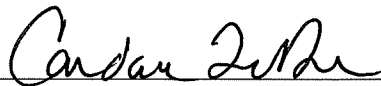
  
Board Member

  
Board Member

  
Board Member

  
Board Member

Attest:



Clerk, Board of Education