

PROCLAMATION

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, September is known around the United States as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and is intended to promote awareness; and

WHEREAS, each death by suicide directly impacts numerous family members, friends, loved ones, and by extension the entire community; and

WHEREAS, according to the state of Florida, in 2019, there were 3,427 Floridians who lost their lives to suicide making it the 8th leading cause of death in Florida; and

WHEREAS, according to the Florida Department of Children and Families, in 2019, suicide was the 3rd leading cause of death for Floridians between the ages of 15-24; and

WHEREAS, the Okeechobee County School Board is committed to raising awareness, providing education and training on suicide prevention, and reducing stigma; and

WHEREAS, the Okeechobee County School Board has a team of mental health and social work supports available, as well as ancillary supports, to students and staff who may be showing signs and/or symptoms of mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Okeechobee County School Board is committed to ensuring that those in need, including students and staff, have access to services by healthcare providers trained in best practices to reduce suicide risk, and to reducing the stigma associated with using behavioral health treatment or losing a loved one to suicide; and

WHEREAS, no single suicide prevention effort will be sufficient or appropriate for all populations or communities; all are asked to join together and take a stand to help those who are contemplating suicide; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Okeechobee County School Board and the Okeechobee County Superintendent of Schools declare the month of September 2021 as

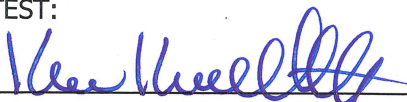
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Passed and adopted this 9th day of September, 2021.



Amanda Riedel
Chairman

ATTEST:



Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools

