

# LIBERTY TREE

A Traditional American Education

## **Resolution No. 2025-04-16-B**

### **RESOLUTION ON THE DISPLAY OF FLAGS AND BANNERS**

WHEREAS, Liberty Tree Academy ( "LTA") is a Colorado nonprofit corporation and a public charter school authorized by El Paso County, Colorado, School District 49 ( "Charter Authorizer") pursuant to the Constitution and the laws of the State of Colorado, particularly the Charter Schools Act, Article 30.5 of Title 22 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended ("C.R.S."), and the terms and provisions of the Charter Contract ("Charter") between the Charter Authorizer and LTA; and

WHEREAS, the display of flags and banners on school property serves as a visible representation of the school's commitment to patriotism and military service; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors seeks to establish clear guidelines to ensure consistency, avoid divisiveness, and maintain a focus on the school's educational mission and vision; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the need for an orderly and focused school environment, free from distractions;

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LIBERTY TREE ACADEMY:**

#### **1) Definitions**

- a. "Patriotic" shall mean demonstrating devotion, loyalty, or pride in the United States of America, its foundational principles of liberty and independence, and its military service, as exemplified by symbols officially recognized by the United States government, those rooted in the nation's founding era, such as the flags listed in Section 2.
- b. "Historical" shall mean pertaining to events from the past that have significantly shaped the identity of the United States, particularly those associated with the American Revolution, the establishment of the nation, and its military heritage, as reflected in the flags specified in Section 2.

#### **2) Permitted Flags and Banners**

Only the following flags and banners, most of which have been officially established by formal action of the United States government or the State of Colorado, and which hold significant patriotic value, may be displayed on Liberty Tree Academy property, including school buildings, grounds, facilities, etc.:

- a. The United States Flag, including historical versions ranging from the flag adopted by the Continental Congress in 1776 with 13 stars to the flag formally established by the U.S. Congress on July 4, 1960, with 50 stars as the national flag.
- b. The Colorado State Flag, as officially adopted on April 1, 1911, by the Colorado General Assembly.
- c. All official flags of the United States Military, including:



- i. The Army Flag, officially authorized by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 12, 1956, via Executive Order 10670.
  - ii. The Navy Flag, officially authorized by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on April 24, 1959, via Executive Order 10812.
  - iii. The Air Force Flag, officially adopted by President Harry S. Truman on March 26, 1951, via memorandum.
  - iv. The Marine Corps Flag, officially adopted on January 18, 1939, via a Marine Corps Order.
  - v. The Space Force Flag, officially presented to President Donald J. Trump on May 15, 2020, during a ceremony with the subsequent designation of the flag as the official banner of the U.S. Space Force.
  - vi. The Coast Guard Flag, officially adopted on January 28, 1964.
  - vii. The POW/MIA Flag, officially recognized on October 17, 1998, via Section 1082 of Public Law 105-261.
- d. The Gadsden Flag, designed in 1775 by Christopher Gadsden for use by the Continental Navy during the American Revolution, featuring a yellow field with a coiled rattlesnake and "Don't Tread on Me," symbolizing colonial unity and resistance to British rule. This flag holds significant historical value from the Revolutionary War period reflecting the ideals of the American struggle for freedom.
- e. Washington's Cruisers Flag, used by General George Washington's naval squadron in 1775, featuring a white field with a pine tree and, "An Appeal to Heaven," representing resistance to British tyranny and an appeal for divine support in the colonies' fight for independence. This flag holds significant historical value from the Revolutionary War period reflecting the ideals of the American struggle for freedom.
- 3) **Prohibited Flags and Banners**  
No flags or banners other than those explicitly listed in Section 2 shall be displayed on Liberty Tree Academy property, including but not limited to school buildings, grounds, flagpoles, classrooms, hallways, or other school facilities and property. This prohibition includes flags, banners, pins, patches, buttons, and stickers representing a political party or ideological movement, except as provided in Section 4.
- 4) **Exemption for Bumper Stickers on Privately Owned Vehicles**  
Bumper stickers, decals, or similar displays affixed to privately owned vehicles located on school property are exempt from this resolution, provided they comply with applicable laws and do not disrupt the educational environment.
- 5) **Display of the U.S. Flag at Half-Mast**  
The decision to fly the United States Flag at half-mast on Liberty Tree Academy property shall be determined by the Board of Directors, which retains final authority over such displays in response to national, state, or local directives, or in recognition of significant events or losses as deemed appropriate by the Board.
- 6) **Implementation and Enforcement**
- a. The school administration is authorized to implement and enforce this resolution, including the approval of specific flag designs to ensure compliance with the descriptions in Section 2.
  - b. Any flag or banner displayed in violation of this resolution may be removed promptly by school staff.



c. The administration may establish additional guidelines for the size, placement, and condition of permitted flags to ensure a respectful and orderly display.

d. This resolution is not intended to, and does not, limit or affect the school's ability to implement its curriculum, e.g., by having students view other flags or banners as part of regular lessons. For instance, students in LTA's geography program might view the flags of other countries or states, or students in LTA's history program might view other flags from history. The administration has the authority to ensure that this resolution does not interfere with the regular, orderly presentation of LTA's curriculum.

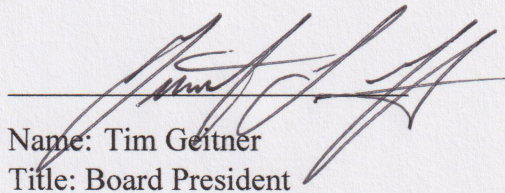
**7) Purpose and Intent**

This resolution is intended to honor the patriotic and historical significance of the founding of the United States, recognize military service, and maintain a cohesive and focused educational environment. It is not intended to restrict protected speech but to regulate the display of flags and banners on school property in a manner consistent with the school's mission and vision.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect until amended or repealed by the Board of Directors. This RESOLUTION is duly adopted by the Board of Directors of Liberty Tree Academy on April 16, 2025, taking effect immediately

**Roll Call Vote:**

| Board Member | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Geitner      | X   |     |         |        |
| Helland      | X   |     |         |        |
| Johnson      | X   |     |         |        |
| Russell      | X   |     |         |        |
| Stuckwisch   | X   |     |         |        |

  
Name: Tim Geitner  
Title: Board President

  
Name: Jenni Helland  
Title: Board Vice President