September 3, 2014

TO: Santa Clara County Board of Education

FROM: Jon R. Gundry
County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Approval of a Resolution in Support of September 15, 2014 as the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month

SCCOE Associated Goal
Goal 1: Improve student equity and reduce access discrepancies to high quality education
Goal 2: Provide support to districts, communities, schools and students

Background

September 15 will mark the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month, a time for us to recognize the many contributions Hispanic Americans have made to our country, and to celebrate the rich and vibrant Hispanic culture.

Originally proclaimed as a single week in September by President Lyndon B. Johnson, it was expanded to encompass a full month 20 years later by President Ronald Reagan. National Hispanic Heritage Month begins on the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Today, Hispanics are the largest minority group in the United States and have played an important role in the shaping of our nation throughout history. Hispanic Americans can be found at all levels of leadership in this country, from the Supreme Court to the hardworking teachers in our classrooms.

National Hispanic Heritage Month commemorates through community activities a more balanced and accurate picture of Hispanic history. This year’s theme is “Hispanics: A Legacy of History, a Present of Action and a Future of Success.”

Fiscal Implications

The passage of this resolution has no fiscal implications.

Requested Action

Approve the resolution in support of September 15, 2014 as the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month.
RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15 OF 2014
AS NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No.

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education takes pride in joining citizens throughout the country in recognizing September 15, 2014 as the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to share the historical and present contributions of Hispanic Americans; and

WHEREAS, the forerunner of National Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968 as a proclamation by President Lyndon B. Johnson as a week to celebrate Hispanic culture, and recognize the important contributions that Hispanics have made to this nation; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the week expanded into National Hispanic Heritage Month to commemorate, through community activities, a more balanced and accurate picture of Hispanic history, and is celebrated annually for a month starting September 15, as it coincides with the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education recognizes the significant contributions and considerable advances that Hispanic Americans have made, and continue to make in our community, state and the world, in such areas as education, medicine, art, culture, public service, economics and development, politics and human rights; we see the greatness of America in those who have risen above injustice and enriched our society; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education in its continued effort to honor National Hispanic Heritage Month and to enhance equity and diversity, will make changes in all its language to replace the word "tolerance" with words like "acceptance," "respect," "inclusion" and "appreciation" whenever relating to equity and/or diversity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools proclaim September 15, 2014 as the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on September 3, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

__________________________________________  ________________________________
Leon Beauchman, President                      Jon R. Gundry
Santa Clara County Board of Education           County Superintendent of Schools