

RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2274-2

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated in the United States from February 1st through March 11th. The 2021 Black History Month theme is The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity; and

WHEREAS, Black History has been celebrated in the United States since 1926 when Carter G. Woodson established Negro History week; and

WHEREAS, the black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines—history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy thus making it an unifying theme for celebration in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated every February as an homage to the achievements of African Americans who have shaped American history - from Buffalo Soldiers to the first Black President and Vice-President of the United States of America. The Association for the Study of African American Life History (ASALH) chose the second week in February in 1926 to celebrate. The week was symbolic in that it was the same week of the birthdays of former President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave and prominent abolitionist movement activist; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1960s, the week evolved into an entire month, thanks in large part to the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, 2019-20 data from the California Department of Education shows that there are 4,750 African American students enrolled in public schools within Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, African American students were one of three student focus groups in the SCCOE's Inclusion Collaborative's *Ways 2 Equity Playbook*. The Playbook examined ways in which African American students have been traditionally marginalized within the educational system and offers suggestions for improvements; and

WHEREAS, the County Office of Education partners with community-based organizations, including the Santa Clara County Alliance for Black Educators and the Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet of Silicon Valley to improve educational outcomes for African American students through school support programs (tutoring, after-school homework centers, mental health services, student advocacy) targeting African American students in Eastside Schools in particular and in Santa Clara County schools in general; and

Santa Clara County  Office of Education

WHEREAS, the contributions and achievements of Black citizens are an important part of the core curriculum throughout the year. Black History Month provides an opportunity to highlight the unique contributions of the African American community that have too often been overlooked; and

WHEREAS, remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead, and a time to acknowledge the courageous fight for the rights, liberties, and freedoms for all Americans, the Santa Clara County Board of Education observes and honors Black History Month and encourages educators, students, and families to learn about the heritage and achievements of African Americans through appropriate programs and activities that reflect the theme for 2021; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize and honor the month of February as Black History Month.

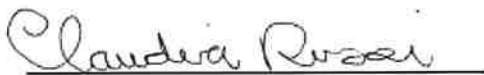
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on January 13, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: President Rossi, Vice President King, Trustees Di Salvo, Kamei, Mah, Ortiz and Chon

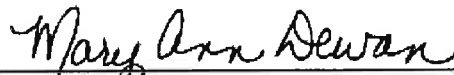
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Claudia Rossi, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Clara County Office of Education