

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No. 2312-3

WHEREAS, February is Black History Month, an annual celebration of the achievements made by African Americans and the significant role they have played in U.S. history. Black History has been celebrated in the United States since 1926 when Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Black History Month theme is Black Resistance; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme reflects on how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms, and police killings; and

WHEREAS, the theme also recognizes the triumphs and progress resistance brought Black people, such as the end of chattel slavery, dismantling of Jim and Jane Crow segregation in the South, increased political representation at all levels of government, desegregation of educational institutions, the passage of Civil Rights Act of 1964, the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History in Washington, D.C. and increased and diverse representation of Black experiences in media; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated every February as an homage to the achievements of African Americans, who have shaped American history - from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Fannie Lou Hamer to the first Black President and Vice-President of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, following Woodson's declaration of Negro History Week in 1926, he established a theme to focus the attention of the public, which was supported by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

WHEREAS, the week was symbolic in that it was the same week as 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, the California Department of Education reported that in the 2021-2022 school year, statewide enrollment of African American/Black students was 5.1%, or 298,768 students, of total enrollment and 1.8%, or 4,367 students, in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, the state of California established the California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) 2018 to address the root causes of persistent inequitable birth outcomes and health disparities of Black mothers and their babies; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department’s Black Infant Health (BIH) program supports pregnant African or African American women through access to specialized resources such as education groups and dedicated BIH health nurses; and

WHEREAS, addressing equity from the prenatal stage can have a direct impact on infant and toddler health as well as life-long health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, African American students are a focus of the Santa Clara County Office of Education’s (SCCOE) Inclusion Collaborative’s Ways 2 Equity Playbook. The Playbook examines major equity issues impacting African American students in the educational system and provides tools to confront inequities and plan for improvement. An enhancement to the Ways 2 Equity Playbook “[Spotlight on African American Students](#)” was published in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE partners with community-based organizations, including the African American Community Service Agency, 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

WHEREAS, the contributions and achievements of Black citizens are an essential part of the core curriculum throughout the year. Black History Month provides an opportunity to highlight the unique contributions of the African American community; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with the SCCOE goal to improve student equity, the County Superintendent of Schools and the Santa Clara County Board of Education observe and honors Black History Month and encourage educators, students, and families to learn about the heritage and achievements of African Americans through appropriate programs and activities that reflect the theme for 2023; 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 County Board of Education at a meeting held on January 18, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: President Chon, Vice President Sreekrishnan, and Trustees Berta, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Rocha

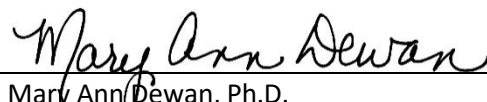
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools