

RESOLUTION HONORING LUNAR NEW YEAR

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No 2312-6**

WHEREAS, during January and February, countries across the world celebrate and honor the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year is celebrated in China, Vietnam, Korea, Indonesia, and many other Asian countries and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Lunar New Year is an important holiday marking the first new moon of the year. Each year is associated with one of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac. Communities of Chinese heritage celebrate the year of the rabbit, which symbolizes positivity, wittiness, cleverness, and longevity, while communities of Vietnamese heritage celebrate the year of the cat, which symbolizes longevity, peace and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year is a time to gather with family, recognize traditions, honor ancestors, celebrate the past year, and invite good luck and prosperity for the new year; and

WHEREAS, it has been celebrated in California since 1858 when early Chinese settlers shared their vibrant culture with the local community. Various communities and organizations host festivals to share and highlight an important celebration in their communities; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Clara County, people who identify as Asian are part of the largest racial or ethnic group for the first time, representing 38.9% of the county's 2020 population of nearly 2 million. According to data from the California Department of Education, in the 2021-2022 school year, over 1,500 teachers in Santa Clara County identify as being of Asian descent and over 74,000 youth identify as being of Asian descent; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education supports the Asian American and Pacific Islander community within the organization through programs such as the Asian American and Pacific Islander Educators Network (AAPIEN). Members of the AAPIEN participate in professional development, which is facilitated by SCCOE staff, where they are encouraged to aim for leadership roles and hone and strengthen leadership skills. Participation in these programs encourage educators from SCCOE and other educational institutions to share and celebrate their lived experiences and culture; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools recognize and honor the Lunar New Year from January 22 to February 5 in 2023 and the tremendous contributions made by those of Asian descent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools encourage schools in Santa Clara County to honor and celebrate the Lunar New Year.

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

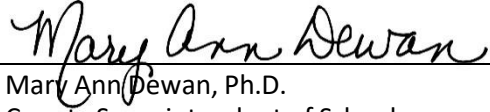
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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