

**RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING AND HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH
2020 THEME: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VOTE**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2256-1**

WHEREAS, the 2020 theme for African American History Month, “African Americans and the Vote,” recognizes 2020 as a general election year as well as marks the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment which granted the right to African American males to vote. This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment which granted voting rights to women. This year’s theme recognizes the struggle for voting rights among African American men and women throughout American history, while acknowledging it remains an ongoing struggle experienced by people of color as we move into the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the reformation following the Civil War abolished slavery and granted the right to vote to African American males; and

WHEREAS, this movement sparked other subsequent human rights movements thereby producing major legislation reforming American society toward a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive population; and

WHEREAS, the County Office of Education operates under four principles, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Partnership;

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

WHEREAS, the County Office of Education has partnered with the Santa Clara Registrar of Voters to ensure a more complete voter participation by offering its location as a voting facility, and by helping promote the Voter’s Choice Act which allows voters to choose how, when, and where to cast their ballot by mailing a ballot to every voter, expanding in-person early voting, and allowing voters to cast their ballot at any vote center within their county of residence; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates African American to make up 2.8-percent of the voting population in Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara County Office of Education recognizes the importance of every vote; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Education reported, in the 2018-19 school year, there were more than 6,186,000 students of African American descent in California and approximately 4,931 in Santa Clara County; 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 African American 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 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools does hereby adopt this resolution to honor Black History Month and recognize the tremendous contributions made by African-Americans.

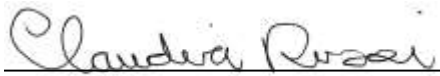
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on February 5, 2020, by the following vote:

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

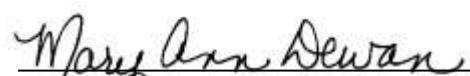
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Trustee Song



Claudia Rossi, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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