

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No. 2457-1

WHEREAS, during January and February, countries worldwide 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 year's first new moon. Each year is associated with one of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac. This year is celebrated as the Year of the Snake, symbolizing wisdom and agility; 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 percent of the county's 2020 population of nearly two million. According to data from the [California Department of Education](#), in the 2023-2024 school year, over 570,000 students identify as being of Asian descent, or 9.9 percent of the more than five million public school students; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) continues to support the Asian American and Pacific Islander community within the organization through programs such as the Asian American and Pacific Islander Educators Network (AAPIEN) and Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP), a national nonprofit organization that cultivates a pipeline of Asian American and Pacific Islander leaders; and

WHEREAS, LEAP leaders and members of the AAPIEN participate in professional development, facilitated by SCCOE staff, where they are encouraged to aim for leadership roles and hone and strengthen leadership skills. Participation in these programs encourages educators from SCCOE and other educational institutions to share and celebrate their lived experiences and culture; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the Interim County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize and honor the 2025 Lunar New Year from January 29 to February 12 as well as the tremendous contributions made by those of Asian descent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and Interim 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 February 5, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Charles Hinman, Ed.D.
Interim County Superintendent of Schools