

RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING MARCH AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2276-1

WHEREAS, according to the California Department of Education (CDE), California's students deserve to learn engaging, and nuanced material in order to understand the past and make sense of the present;

WHEREAS, the month of March is designated as Women's History Month, a month long celebration to commemorate and encourage the study of the vital role women play in American history;

WHEREAS, the theme for Women's History Month 2021 is Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced. This theme is an extension of the 2020 theme because most 2020 women's suffrage centennial celebrations were curtailed due to the global health pandemic;

WHEREAS, each March, Women's History is celebrated in local schools, school districts, and larger communities;

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is an organization that operates under four main principles equity, inclusion, diversity, and partnership. The mission of the SCCOE is to serve, inspire, and promote student and public school success;

WHEREAS, 2020 marked the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment which forbids denying the right to vote on the basis of gender;

WHEREAS, we have progressed as a nation, and we must still acknowledge that much work remains before achieving inclusive representation;

WHEREAS, women account for 51% of the nations' population, but make up less than 20% of the United States Congress, and women of color represent only 4.5% of these congressional seats. Women comprise only 14.6% of executive officers, 8.1% of top earners, and 4.6% of Fortune 500 CEOs. Women constitute 16.9% of Fortune 500 boards with 3.2% of those board seats belonging to women of color, and more than two-thirds of Fortune 500 companies have no women of color as board members at all;

WHEREAS, the Santa County Board of Education, which is composed of seven elected officials, has five female appointments: Board President and Area 7 representative, Claudia Rossi; Vice-President and Area 2 representative, Kathleen King; Area 1 representative Grace H. Mah; Area 3 representative Rosemary Kameji; and Area 5 representative Victoria Chon;

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education has established partnerships to promote female representation, both in history books and in our community, including the Santa Clara Women's Equality Council which honored the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and focus on delivering the promise of women's full equality in our democracy by closing the gap between the promise and current reality;

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education leads the Power of Democracy, a civic engagement initiative which promotes all Santa Clara County youth to become self-reliant, active, and contributing participants in our society;

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education promotes the vision of ensuring that students have access to high-quality, culturally relevant, diverse, and inclusive education which inspires all children to take an active part in civic processes and become part of the story of our nation;

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education recognizes female trailblazers such as newly-elected Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, a Bay Area native; Silicon Valley technology trailblazer Judith Estrin; and Santa Clara County Public Health Officer, Dr. Sara Cody who has been nationally recognized for her efforts in the fight against COVID-19;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Education recognizes the month of March as Women's History Month and supports women in education within Santa Clara County and encourages women's history education in our classrooms to promote the discovery of Her Stories.

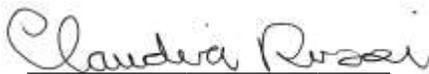
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on February 17, 2021, by the following vote:

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

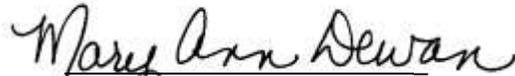
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Trustee Di Salvo



Claudia Rossi, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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