

**RESOLUTION TO HONOR DOLORES HUERTA DAY ON APRIL 10**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2316-2**

**WHEREAS**, April 10 is set aside to honor and celebrate the lifelong work of Dolores Huerta. Dolores Huerta is an American labor leader and civil rights activist, and a co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers; and

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta was born on April 10, 1930, in Dawson, New Mexico, the daughter of Juan and Alicia Fernandez; and

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Huerta became a school teacher in Stockton, California and became conscious of the need for economic justice through seeing her students come to school barefoot and hungry; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 1950s, Huerta met legendary community organizer Fred Ross, Sr. and found her calling as an organizer serving in the leadership of the Stockton Community Service Organization (CSO), during which time she set up voter registration drives, pressed local governments for barrio improvements; and founded the Agricultural Workers Association (AWA); and

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Huerta's famed lobbying efforts were crucial in securing Aide for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and disability insurance for farm workers in the State of California in 1963; and

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Huerta is the most prominent Mexican-American female labor leader in the United States, is the co-founder with Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW); and

**WHEREAS**, for over 60 years beginning in the 1960s, Huerta lobbied in Sacramento and Washington D.C., organized field strikes, directed UFW boycotts, led farm worker campaigns for political candidates, negotiated the first UFW labor contracts and played a major role in the American civil rights movement; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002 Dolores Huerta founded the Dolores Huerta Foundation, which recruits and empowers grassroots leaders in low-income communities to attain social justice by organizing volunteer organizations called Vecinos Unidos (United Neighborhoods) to work on issues in education, health, the environment, civic engagement and economic development. Dolores Huerta travels the nation speaking to students and organizations about social justice and public policy; and

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Huerta has received numerous awards, among them the California State Senate's Outstanding Labor Leader Award, the ACLU Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award, the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award, the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award, the Consumer's Union Trumpeter's Award, Ms. Magazine's "Woman of the Year" for 1998, the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton in 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Huerta was the first Latina inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1993, and served on the Board of Regents of the University of California; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, President Obama presented Huerta the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 18, 2018 Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 2644, introduced by Assembly member Eloise Reyes (AD-47); designating April 10th as Dolores Huerta Day, making civil rights leader and community organizer, Dolores Huerta the first and only living person to hold this honor; and

**WHEREAS**, Representative Sylvia R. Garcia from the House Oversight and Reform committee sponsored Resolution 1056, “supporting the designation of April 10 as "Dolores Huerta Day", in honor of the accomplishments and legacy of Dolores Huerta,” on April 14, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, her rallying cry of “Sí Se Puede” continues to call us to fight for the changes our communities need to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, members of society will benefit from having the opportunity to learn more about this leader for social justice and civil rights, empowering them to fight for fair representation, voting rights, and equitable education; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill 2644 adds Section 37222.20 to the Education Code, stating “On Dolores Huerta Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises remembering the life of Dolores Huerta, recognizing her accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions she made to this state”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is an organization that operates under four core principles: equity, inclusion, diversity, and partnership. Under these principles, it is important to acknowledge the life and work of civil rights leaders whose work directly impacts our student populations; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE, as the Region 1 lead, provides services to students in the Migrant Education program in Santa Clara, San Benito, San Mateo, Alameda, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz counties. The general purpose of the Migrant Education Program is to ensure that migrant children fully benefit from free public education and receive support services; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE provides services to approximately 4,662 school-age migrant students within the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara Unified School District opened the Dolores Huerta Middle School in August of 2021. Dolores Huerta attended the school ribbon cutting and spoke about the importance of equitable education for all children; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022 Dolores Huerta joined filmmaker Luis Valdez and author Francisco Jiménez in a panel discussion at the Gilroy Library to discuss the importance of resilience, at the kick-off for the traveling Smithsonian Museum exhibit “[Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields/Revolución en los Campos](#)” that was displayed from Saturday, November 5, 2022 through Monday, January 23, 2023; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to honor a national civil rights and labor leader in America on Dolores Huerta Day and encourage the Santa Clara County community to learn about and celebrate the life of Dolores Huerta as a force for social justice and empowerment.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 15, 2023, by the following vote:

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

NOES: none

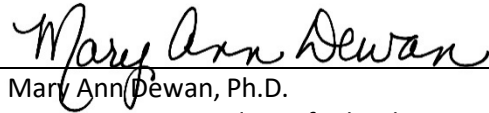
ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



---

Victoria Chon, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



---

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