

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2460-2**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) and the Interim County Superintendent of Schools are honored to join communities throughout the country to recognize and celebrate April 2025, as Arab American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, each April since 2017, the United States (U.S.) celebrates Arab and Arab American culture and contributions to our nation and local community; and

WHEREAS, Arab American Heritage Month is an opportunity to share the historical contributions of Arab and Arab American people across various fields; and

WHEREAS, for example, Ahmed Zewail immigrated to America from Egypt, earned his Ph.D., and won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1999. He was the first Arab to win a Nobel Prize in a science field; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, the first Arab American began serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, George A. Kasem. The first Arab American Senator was recognized as James Abourezk who was appointed in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Etel Adnan was a poet, essayist, and visual artist who made significant contributions to the art community and lived in Marin County; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State estimates there are three and a half million Arab Americans in the U.S; and

WHEREAS, in California, 740,219 people belong to the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) community, of which an estimated 373,012 are Arab American; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Education (CDE), the SCCBOE, and the Interim County Superintendent of Schools encourage all schools and local educational agencies to proactively communicate with educators and staff the importance of celebrating diversity and preventing bullying based on student's real or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion; and

WHEREAS, through the creation of resources such as the [Ways 2 Equity Playbook](#), the Educational Progress Division supports the Santa Clara County Office of Education's (SCCOE) goal to build a culture that promotes equity, inclusion, belonging, and valuing every student; and

WHEREAS, additional resources provided by the SCCOE, such as the [My Name, My Identity Toolkit](#) designed in partnership with the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE), further promote inclusion by bringing awareness to valuing students' cultures and languages; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE recognizes the significant contributions of Arab and Arab American individuals in our community, state, and the world, as leaders, scientists, politicians, educators, public servants, and more; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and Interim County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing April as Arab American Heritage Month and celebrate the diversity and contributions of the Arab and Arab American community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 19, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Jessica Speiser, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan

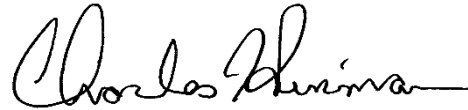
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Raeena Lari, Jorge Pacheco



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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