

RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING MARCH AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2239-1

WHEREAS, according to the California Department of Education, 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 monthlong celebration to commemorate and encourage the study of the vital role women play in American history;

WHEREAS, the theme for Women's History Month 2019 is "Discover Her Story";

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

WHEREAS, the City of San Jose has the distinction of being the first city with a population over 500,000 to elect a female lead. Janet Gray-Hayes, who in 1974 became mayor, inspired a generation of women and community activists;

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

WHEREAS, 2017 data from kidsdata.org and Education Data Partnership show that in Santa Clara County nearly 75-percent of teachers are female, and 48-percent of students in Santa Clara County are female;

WHEREAS, studies show that children who see positive representations of themselves will understand their importance and impact on society;

WHEREAS, data from the County of Santa Clara demonstrates that women make up half the population and workforce in Santa Clara County, but on average they earn 28-percent less than men across all occupations. Women are underrepresented in Green or STEM occupations which represent 27-percent of the county workforce, and men are twice as likely as women to be employed in this sector;

WHEREAS, UC Davis conducted a recent study of the 400 Largest Public Companies in California, and in Santa Clara County of 104 firms, women only make up 12.7-percent of directors and 8.6-percent of executives and CEOs;

WHEREAS, on March 29, astronauts aboard the International Space Station are scheduled to conduct the first all-female spacewalk. Anne McClain and Christina Koch will venture out together about 240 miles above Earth and make history. Women will be at the controls as well. Mary Lawrence will serve as lead flight director, and Jackie Kagey will be the lead spacewalk flight controller. Adding to the significance of their mission, the spacewalk will take place during Women's History Month;

WHEREAS, in 2020, we will honor 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, the Santa Clara County Office of Education has established partnerships to promote female representation, both in the history books and in our community including the Women's Equality 2020 Council which will honor 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 promotes gender equity by promoting Strong Girls Strong Women, a free leadership conference offered to high school students, their mothers, and allies and partners with the Association of California School Administrators to host the Women's Leadership Network events;

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is a female-led organization that employs almost 1,600 employees, 80-percent identify as female and women hold 77-percent of the leadership positions;

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education is the elected governing body of the Santa Clara County Office of Education consisting of seven members, five of whom are female. The female members are Rosemary Kamei, President, Area 3 and elected in 2015, Kathleen M. King, Area 2 and elected in 2018, Grace H. Mah, Area 1 and elected in 2007, Claudia Rossi, Area 7 and elected in 2014 and Anna Song, Vice-President, Area 5 elected in 2000;

WHEREAS, Area 5 County Board of Education Trustee and current Vice-President Anna Song has served on the County Board of Education for 19 years. Vice-President Song is the first Korean-American to be elected in Santa Clara County, the first Korean-born female to be elected in California's history, and is the longest-serving Korean-American elected official in the United States, therefore playing a significant role in local history;

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 in Santa Clara County and encourages women's history education in our classrooms to promote the discovery of Her Stories.

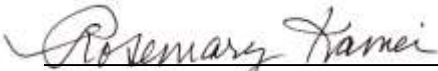
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 20, 2019, by the following vote:

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

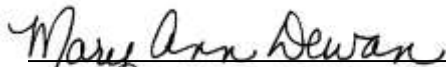
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Rosemary Kamei, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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