

RESOLUTION HONORING THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY IN UKRAINE

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2297-3**

WHEREAS, Ukraine, the second-largest country in Europe, declared its independence from Russia on August 24, 1991, beginning its transition to a market economy; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2021 at the Brussels Summit, NATO leaders reiterated the decision taken at the 2008 Bucharest Summit that stated Ukraine would become a member of the Alliance with the Membership Action Plan (MAP). This also established Ukraine's right to determine its own future and foreign policy without outside interference; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, the citizens of Ukraine have been fighting to protect their democracy and freedoms; and

WHEREAS, this action against Ukraine is the largest conventional military attack on a European state since World War II and has triggered Europe's largest refugee crisis with over 3.6 million Ukrainians leaving the country, and millions more fleeing their homes; and

WHEREAS, per United Nations data, as of March 24, 2022, there are over 1,000 civilian fatalities; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Children's Fund has reported that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has now displaced more than 4.5 million children -- more than half of the country's estimated child population. According to UNICEF, threats to Ukraine's children have grown as homes, schools, orphanages, and hospitals have all come under attack. Two million children have been forced to flee Ukraine, with more than 2.5 million children estimated to have been internally displaced. Such large displacements could have lasting consequences for generations to come. Children fleeing Ukraine are at heightened risk of human trafficking and exploitation. Meanwhile, civilian infrastructure like water and sanitation facilities have been hit, leaving millions with limited or no access to safe water; and

WHEREAS, as a premier service organization with initiatives rooted in civic engagement and a commitment to the principles of democracy, equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership, the SCCOE echoes the values for which the people of Ukraine are fighting to preserve; and

WHEREAS, through the SCCOE Power of Democracy initiative, a multi-sector coalition, helps students and educators foster an understanding of the structures and processes of American democracy through the investment of civic education for all ages and in all communities via curricula, ongoing program evaluations, professional development for teachers, and a state award program that recognizes civic-learning achievements. These measures encompass lifelong (K-12 and adult) civic-learning experiences with the full community in mind; and

WHEREAS, through a lens of equity and diversity, the Power of Democracy: Civic Engagement Initiative shares best practices and resources, encourages informed and multifaceted civic engagement participation, and builds stronger communities; and

WHEREAS, as stated in the *Final Report and Recommendations of the Commission on the Practice of Democratic Principles* (2020), a healthy constitutional democracy depends on a virtuous cycle in which responsive political institutions foster a healthy civic culture of participation and responsibility, while a healthy civic culture—a combination of values, norms, and narratives—keeps our political institutions responsive and inclusive; and

WHEREAS, democracy is a living system of government that can only prosper by being renewed and reinvented again and again; and

WHEREAS, as President Biden stated at The Summit for Democracy on December 9, 2021, “as a global community for democracy, we have to stand up for the values that unite us. We have to stand for justice and the rule of law, for free speech, free assembly, a free press, freedom of religion, and for all the inherent human rights of every individual.” For as is stated in the preamble to The Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby acknowledge the courage and sacrifice that the Ukrainian people have demonstrated in standing up for the principles of democracy, and honor the sacrifice of those who have suffered and have been lost in the fight for democracy and freedom.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on April 6, 2022, by the following vote:

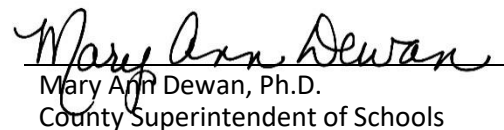
AYES: President Ortiz, Vice President Chon and Trustees Di Salvo, Kamei, Mah and Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Trustee Rossi


Peter Ortiz, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education


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