

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No. 2461-4

WHEREAS, April is recognized as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, a time to spotlight resources for families and community members to foster healthy relationships with children; and

WHEREAS, child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age, which includes physical and/or emotional maltreatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, and which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power; and

WHEREAS, children are some of the most vulnerable members of the greater community. It's critical to keep children safe, support families, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, child abuse affects families from all backgrounds and includes emotional harm, neglect, rejection, and inappropriate behavior that leaves long-term trauma, often continuing across generations; and

WHEREAS, one in four girls and one in thirteen boys in the United States (U.S.) are estimated to experience child abuse nationwide, and more than 550,000 children are known to U.S. authorities to be abused; and

WHEREAS, children spend a significant part of their day in the school environment and local educational agencies play a critical role in identifying and reporting suspected child abuse, with staff members, including teachers, counselors, school nurses and administrators and all mandated reporters in education; and

WHEREAS, schools should create a safe and supportive environment where children feel comfortable sharing concerns about abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, schools should collaborate with community partners, such as child welfare agencies, law enforcement, and mental health providers, to ensure that abused children receive the support they need; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the Interim County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize April as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, reaffirming their commitment to providing a safe and supportive educational environment, and pledge to continue raising awareness, offering resources, and fostering partnerships that prevent child abuse.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on April 16, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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