

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No: 2317-2

WHEREAS, May is National Foster Care Month, a campaign established to recognize the importance of collaborative relationships among community organizations working to support youth in foster care programs; and

WHEREAS, by September 30, 2021 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that there were 391,098 children and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, in 2020-2021 academic year (the last year with recorded data) 61,466 students in California were reported by the California Department of Education (CDE) to be in foster care; and

WHEREAS, in the 2020-2021 academic year 924 of children and youth from Santa Clara County were reported to be in foster care by the CDE; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is committed to improving the academic and social-emotional outcomes of foster youth; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE provides services to children and youth in foster care through Foster & Homeless Youth Services (FHY). By providing assistance and training to local education agencies (LEAs), FHY connects school districts and community partners and keeps them abreast on educational law that protects youth who are in foster care and experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the FHY manages a Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program funded by the California Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the FHY continues to partner with Pivotal, a San Jose based nonprofit providing foster youth education and career support, on educational coaching and post-secondary planning for youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, the Pivotal and the SCCOE partnership continues to evolve to meet the needs of youth returning to school and adjusting to learning loss that occurred during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the FHY continues to partner with Child Advocates of Silicon Valley (CASA), to provide educational workshops and support to Court Appointed Special Advocates, including attendance support and literacy development focusing on children age 5-12; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE provides Foster Vision, a sustainable and free service to all school districts in Santa Clara County to facilitate tracking foster youth educational status, placement changes, and improvement of services, through a collection of data from districts and public agencies; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE co-leads the education manager program with the County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE hosts a community of practice for school district foster youth liaisons. In August 2021 a county-wide Steering Committee was established, with partnership from community-based organizations and agencies, to improve educational outcomes for youth who are in foster care, experiencing homeless or justice engaged; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize May as National Foster Care Month and supports foster youth in education in Santa Clara County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on April 19, 2023, by the following vote:

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

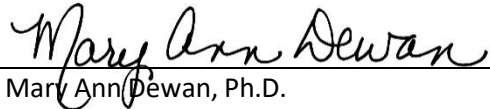
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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