

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY AS NATIONAL ASIAN-AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No: 2298-2**

WHEREAS, the month of May is recognized as National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to recognize and honor the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States as designated by the United States Congress since 1992; and

WHEREAS, National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated in May to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, where Chinese immigrants played a key role in laying tracks and completing the historic project; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Clara County, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders make up approximately 31% of the student population and 38% of the overall population, making it the largest ethnic group in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has established a partnership with the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute and the California Association for Asian and Pacific American Islander Educator Organization (CAAPAE). Its leaders participate in the Asian-American and Pacific Islander Educators Network Group, which supports Santa Clara County educators with tools and resources to cultivate inclusive, affirming and equitable school environments for every Asian-American and Pacific Islander student, family and staff member in Santa Clara County schools; and

WHEREAS, the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute has made many contributions to the community, and is a premier leader in training socially-conscious and effective civic leaders; and,

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education supports both civic learning and civic engagement activities; and,

WHEREAS, the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute was established to emphasize public service, and since establishment has encouraged Asian Pacific American civic participation, bridging members of the Silicon Valley community with community based organizations to make an impact in local policy, housing, and education; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is an institute of learning that is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success; and

WHEREAS, the Santa County Office of Education is committed to honoring and celebrating the diversity of others as well as ensuring that we learn from the heritage and culture of others; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education supports initiatives focused on bringing awareness to the importance of respecting one’s culture and identity in schools, including the “My Name, My Identity Initiative.” This initiative asks the school community to foster a welcoming atmosphere by pronouncing students’ names correctly, thereby honoring the individual student and creating a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education renews its commitment to the safety and well-being of all ethnic populations including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution in 2020 and March 2021 in support of denouncing xenophobia due to fears of the COVID-19 pandemic and affirming the Board’s commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian American staff and students; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools recognizes the month of May as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on April 20, 2022, by the following vote:

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

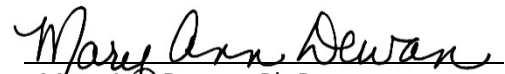
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Peter Ortiz, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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