

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUESTIONING (LGBTQ+)  
PRIDE MONTH AND MAY 22ND AS HARVEY MILK DAY**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2319-1**

**WHEREAS**, June is nationally recognized as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ+) Pride Month. Pride Month is celebrated in June in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Riots and highlights the work to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for LGBTQ+ Americans; and,

**WHEREAS**, Harvey Milk was the first openly gay elected official in the history of California and, at the time of his death, the most recognized political advocate for LGBTQ+ rights in the United States. His dedication to advocating for his LGBTQ+ constituents, created space for other LGBTQ+ leaders and advocates to run for political office. For his unwavering support of the LGBTQ+ community, we recognize May 22nd as Harvey Milk Day; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 15, 2020, in a landmark decision for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) persons, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that employment discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and thus is illegal; and,

**WHEREAS**, accepting all youth, especially LGBTQ+ youth, is critical to keeping schools a safe and nurturing place. Political leaders continue to make federal and local policies that include LGBTQ+ voice and ideas, increasing visibility and acceptance of LGBTQ+ youth; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the [Center of Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) found that one in four high school students identifies as LGBTQ+. This is a 15 percent increase from 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth in California experience higher rates of poor emotional health, substance use and school absences compared with their straight-identified youth. Santa Clara County reported 2,426, or 7 percent of students who identify as LGBTQ+ on the available Project Cornerstone survey (2017). Of this student group, only 11 percent reported feeling valued by their communities. These young people are reported as three times more likely to attempt suicide; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC's national [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance](#) results released in 2021, both male and female identifying LGBTQ+ youth are more at risk than their straight-identifying counterparts to seriously consider, plan, and/or attempt suicide; and,

**WHEREAS**, lack of acceptance and affirmation increases mental health risks. [One survey](#) reports that 28 percent of transgender youth whose pronouns are not affirmed attempted suicide in the past year. That number decreased to 12 percent for those whose pronouns are affirmed by all or most people in their lives; and,

**WHEREAS**, a recent [study](#) from LGBT Health found that one in three LGBTQ+ identifying youth experience difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep. This study focused on youth ages 10 to 14, a developmentally crucial time for mental and physical development. Compare this 33 percent to the 13.5 percent of their straight-identifying peers; and

**WHEREAS**, researchers estimate that [20 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system](#) are lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender nonconforming, or transgender compared with 4-6 percent of youth in the general population. The same research shows that 40 percent of girls (who were assigned female at birth) in the juvenile justice system identify as LBQ and/or gender nonconforming; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to The National Center for Transgender Equality, one in five transgender people in the United States has experienced discrimination when seeking a home, and more than one in ten have been evicted from their homes because of their gender identity. Family rejection and discrimination and violence have contributed to a large number of transgender and other LGBTQ+ identified youth who are homeless in the United States – an estimated 20-40 percent of the more than 1.6 million homeless youth; and,

**WHEREAS**, state law under the FAIR Education Act, Senate Bill 48, requires that California K-12 schools provide Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) representations of people with disabilities and people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in the curricula, and the inclusions of LGBTQ+ history in kindergarten through 12 grade education; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is actively working to create more inclusive policies and practices that support, and uplift LGBTQ youth and encourages students, staff, and community members to utilize the SCCOE LGBTQ website (<https://www.sccoe.org/LGBTQ/>) and its resources. As an Out for Safe Schools collective, the SCCOE will support districts with practices and initiatives focused on safe and supportive learning environments; and,

**WHEREAS**, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Affairs, the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services's QCorner, Santa Clara County Youth Space, The Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC), the SCCOE provides support to districts and stakeholders to support the LGBTQ+ students and community through services including the Safe & Healthy Schools department; and,

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE works throughout the year to cultivate a positive environment by offering holistic support for all students through the Foster & Homeless Youth Services programs, suicide prevention, student wellness, school climate, anti-bullying, and positive behavior intervention programs; and,

**WHEREAS**, a commitment has been made by the SCCOE to demonstrate solidarity to the LGBTQ+ community and support of inclusive and welcoming environments for all by permanently raising the Progress Pride Flag; and,

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE is an institute of learning that is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success while lifting up equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership; now,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools recognize and honor June as National LGBTQ+ Pride Month and May 22, 2023 as Harvey Milk Day while renewing their commitment to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish safe environments in our schools and communities throughout the county.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 17, 2023, by the following vote:

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

NOES: none

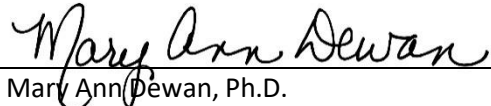
ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Victoria Chon, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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