

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2300-3**

WHEREAS, June 19 is nationally recognized as Juneteenth - the oldest known American acknowledgment of ending slavery; and,

WHEREAS, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1863, and two months after the Civil War ended in 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19 to announce those enslaved were now free; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Freedom Day” or “Emancipation Day.” Juneteenth celebrations have since been held to commemorate African American freedom from slavery. Honoring this day, more than 150 years later, helps us learn our history and better understand the experiences of African Americans who shaped this nation; and,

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation recognizing Juneteenth as a federal holiday and went into effect immediately following the President’s signature; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed Juneteenth a day of observance in the state of California in 2019, noting the contributions of those with African Ancestry; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara was the first county in the state to mark Juneteenth as a county holiday. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the county holiday on September 22, 2020, with the first observance in 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) observes Juneteenth as a holiday; and,

WHEREAS, the African American Community Services Agency will host its 41st Annual Juneteenth Celebration in San Jose with a variety of the events and activities to honor African ancestry, promote wellness, and share history with the county community; and,

WHEREAS, the SCCOE advocates for the continuance of the tradition of observing Juneteenth to address and condemn the atrocities and degradation of our shared past and honors this day of resilience in the face of injustice and inhumanity for present and future generations; and,

WHEREAS, the SCCOE acknowledges the historical relevance of this significant event and the generational trauma that accompanies being subject to racism, discrimination, and prejudice as a barrier to positive well-being, economic opportunity, and academic achievement; and,

WHEREAS, the SCCOE remains committed to improving student equity and access to high-quality education as well as to providing quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities; and,

WHEREAS, professional learning opportunities and supports are available to the educators through the History-Social Science, Civic Engagement, and Inclusion Collaborative to foster learning and discourse; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools recognize and honor June 19th as Juneteenth and remain committed to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish safe environments in our schools and communities throughout the county.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 18, 2022, by the following vote:

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

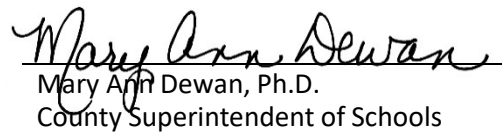
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Peter Ortiz, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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