

**RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUESTIONING (LGBTQ)
PRIDE MONTH**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2282-1**

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 election to office in the United States marked an important moment for LGBTQ political representation, inspiring countless LGBTQ people to follow in his footsteps. California recognizes Harvey Milk Day on May 22nd; and

WHEREAS communities today are undergoing rapid cultural and political change around the treatment of sexual minorities and gender diversity; 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, federal and local policies and practices are increasingly acknowledging and focusing on LGBTQ youth and numerous national advocacy and other organizations are giving greater attention to LGBTQ youth in their work. Acceptance and support for all youth, including those who are LGBTQ, make communities and schools safer places; 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% of students who identify as LGBTQ on the available Project Cornerstone survey (2017). Of this student group, only 11% reported feeling valued by their communities. These young people are reported as three times more likely to attempt suicide; and,

WHEREAS, lack of acceptance and affirmation increases mental health risks. [One survey](#) found 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, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) national [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance](#) results released in 2019, 43% of transgender youth have been bullied on school property. 29% of transgender youth, 21% of gay and lesbian youth and 22% of bisexual youth have attempted suicide; and,

WHEREAS, researchers estimate that [20% of youth in the juvenile justice system](#) are lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender nonconforming, or transgender compared with 4-6% of youth in the general population. The same research shows that 40% 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% 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 our curricula, and the inclusions of LGBTQ history in kindergarten through 12 grade education; and,

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is actively working to create more inclusive policies and practices that support, and uplift LGBTQ youth, encourage 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 Behavior Health Services's QCorner, Santa Clara County Youth Space, The Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC), the Santa Clara County Office of Education (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 and the Santa Clara County Government Center to demonstrate their solidarity to the LGBTQ community and support of inclusive and welcoming environments for all by permanently raising the Rainbow 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, BE IT 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 remain committed to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish safe environments in our schools and communities throughout the county.

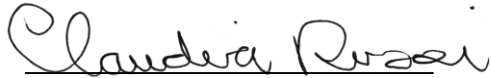
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 19, 2021, by the following vote:

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

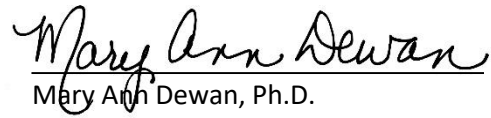
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Claudia Rossi
Claudia Rossi, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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