

RESOLUTION RECOGNITION OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE AND DENOUNCING ANTISEMITISM

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No: 2320-1

WHEREAS, communities at-large recognize the enduring faith, perseverance, and resilience of the Jewish people and uplift the many contributions Jewish Americans make to enrich American culture, politics, civil society, and countless other areas; and

WHEREAS, for thousands of years, members of Jewish communities have sustained strong cultural identities and traditions despite persecution, enslavement, forced segregation, and the horrors of the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, this history has led many Jewish Americans to find common cause with the Civil Rights Movement, and Jewish Americans have continued their strong support for liberty and human dignity, thus uniting to end discrimination in voting, employment, and public accommodation while also supporting equality for women, farmworkers, disabled, and LGBTQ+ Americans; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans, in the face of unspeakable discrimination and adversity, have fought tirelessly to realize the promise of the nation's freedom, and continue to teach us empathy and compassion, inspired by their beliefs and history; and

WHEREAS, acts of antisemitism, hate crimes, targeted violence and acts of harassment, including online abuse, have increased in recent years. In response, the Biden-Harris Administration launched the first U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism this year. As part of the strategy, the U.S. Department of Education launched an Antisemitism Awareness Campaign aimed at increasing the awareness and understanding of antisemitism, including its danger to the greater community starting with education; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights recently released a [letter](#) reminding schools of their legal obligations to provide a school environment free from discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) to all students, and that immediate and appropriate action must occur in response to harassment that creates a hostile environment; and

WHEREAS, through education and awareness students and their communities are taught and encouraged to think critically about their own roles and responsibilities to stand up against hate. Such education is supported through the Never Again Education Act, authorizing the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to develop and disseminate resources that promote understanding about how and why the Holocaust happened; and

WHEREAS, California is home to the second-largest Jewish population in the nation. The Jewish population made a significant impact in Silicon Valley's early days and has led the re-settlement of adult and child refugees through service-oriented organizations, such as Jewish Family Services Silicon Valley; and

WHEREAS, according to the Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund the Bay Area Jewish population is the fourth largest Jewish population in the country. The largest age group is young adults 18-34. One-third of Bay Area Jewish households currently have at least one child living with them; and

WHEREAS, to provide inclusive, equitable, high-quality education to every child in the county, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) creates, establishes and sustains initiatives and programs that encourage students to learn about and embrace different cultures; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing Jewish American Heritage and denouncing antisemitism and all acts of hate.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on June 14, 2023, by the following vote:

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

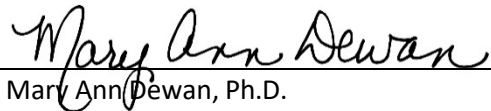
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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