

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AMERICAN MUSLIM APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS MONTH**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2444-3**

**WHEREAS**, the month of August is recognized as American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the significant contributions of Muslims are not new to America. Historians have evidence that Muslims were among the early European explorers and settlers both as mapmakers and guides. Estevanico of Azamor, a Moroccan guide who landed in Florida in 1527, is often cited as the first documented Muslim in America<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the first significant migration of Muslims to America was during the three centuries of the slave trade where an estimated 10 to 50 percent<sup>2</sup> of the ten million Africans brought to America against their will were Muslims; and

**WHEREAS**, California History–Social Science standards include lessons on analyzing the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Islam including within World History and Geography<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Muslim Americans are estimated at 3.45 million people of all ages, including 2.15 million adults<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 250,000 Muslims live in the San Francisco Bay Area and make up at least 3.5 percent<sup>5</sup> of the population; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Clara County has a thriving community with over 60,000<sup>6</sup> Muslim residents who make rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is committed to its key principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. The SCCOE's [Inclusion Collaborative's Ways 2 Equity Playbook](#) offers districts and schools assistance in beginning and growing their equitable and inclusive practices and environments; now

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<sup>1</sup> <https://pluralism.org/the-first-american-muslims>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pluralism.org/the-first-american-muslims>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www2.cde.ca.gov/cacs/id/web/4332>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2017/07/26/demographic-portrait-of-muslim-americans/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://aapip.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/bay\\_area\\_muslim\\_study\\_onba\\_project\\_infographic\\_final\\_1.pdf](https://aapip.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/bay_area_muslim_study_onba_project_infographic_final_1.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://d3.santaclaracounty.gov/community-muslimamers#:~:text=Santa%20Clara%20County%20is%20home,background%20are%20connected%20to%20Islam.>

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing August as American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on July 17, 2024, by the following vote:

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

NOES: none

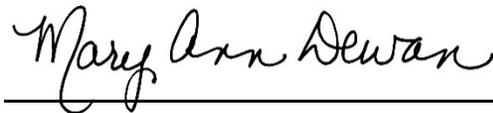
ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Maimona Afzal Berta, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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