

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No. 2325-2

WHEREAS, the month of October is designated LGBTQ+ History Month, a month-long celebration of the history of the diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community and the importance of civil rights movements in progressing gay rights; and

WHEREAS, the observance was created by Rodney Wilson, a history teacher at a Missouri high school, in 1994. In 1995, the General Assembly of the National Education Association added LGBTQ+ History Month to the list of commemorative months in a resolution; and

WHEREAS, contributing to October being chosen as the month to celebrate LGBTQ+ history is the anniversary of the first march for gay rights in Washington which took place on October 14, 1979, falling on the 10 year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of the history month now includes Ally Week which includes a student spirit day on October 19th. Ally Week encourages students to be allies with LGBTQ members and to stand up to bullying. Allies are encouraged to wear purple on October 19th as a means of showing solidarity with LGBTQ youth in honor of Matthew Shepard who was murdered in a hate crime in October 1998; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ History Month provides the opportunity to extensively learn about the history of the LGBTQ+ movement, the Fair Act, and what factors and measures will be successful in building communities and providing role models who will best represent and address the issues of the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, the month-long commemoration is most prominently celebrated in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Hungary, Brazil, and the city of Berlin; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) supports LGBTQ+ youth and allies; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE was one of the first county offices to make a commitment to fly the pride flag daily and not just during Pride Month in June; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE has established resources and supports for youth, educators, and families including trainings on the Fair Act, Out for Safe Schools, and the use of pronouns as well as a community resource guide; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2022, the SCCOE partnered with community leaders to establish a, first of its kind in the Bay Area, LGBTQ+ Flag Raising and Resource Fair; and

WHEREAS, following the event the SCCOE hosted the Queer Silicon Valley History Project traveling exhibit, an LGBTQ+ art display curated by Dr. Ken Yeager; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 LGBTQ+ History Month Showcase will take place on October 5 and will honor districts and charter schools in Santa Clara County for their remarkable efforts in promoting LGBTQ+ inclusivity; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE received the 2022-23 CTA LGBTQ+ Safety in Schools Grant & Scholarship Program in Honor of Guy DeRosa, a lifelong advocate for civil, human, and LGBTQ+ rights; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is committed to supporting districts and schools in creating and sustaining inclusive spaces that are welcoming and promote a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, the student wellness programs and services that are both sponsored and supported by the SCCOE offer safe and welcoming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE remains committed to equity and inclusion, and offering support to schools and districts regardless of their students' sexual orientation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize October as LGBTQ+ History Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on September 20, 2023, by the following vote:

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


NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Don Rocha



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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