

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION No. 2433-2**

**WHEREAS**, February is Black History Month, an annual celebration of the achievements made by African Americans and the significant role they have played in United States (U.S.) history. Black History has been celebrated in the U.S. since 1926 when Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 Black History Month theme is African Americans and the Arts; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's theme reflects on how African Americans have influenced visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) spotlights this year's theme around artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, led by people of African descent who set the standard for popular trends around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is celebrated every February as an homage to the achievements of African Americans who have shaped American history – from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Fannie Lou Hamer to the first Black President and Vice-President of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, following Woodson's declaration of Negro History Week in 1926, he established a theme to focus the attention of the public, which was supported by the ASALH; and

**WHEREAS**, the week was symbolic in that it was the same week as the birthdays of former President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave and prominent abolitionist movement activist; and

**WHEREAS**, in the late 1960s, the week evolved into an entire month, thanks in large part to the civil rights movement; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Education reported that in the 2022-23 school year, statewide enrollment of African American/Black students was 273,148 students, or 4.7%, of total enrollment and 4,159 students, or 1.8%, in Santa Clara County; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of California established the California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) in 2018 to address the root causes of persistent inequitable birth outcomes and health disparities of Black mothers and their babies; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department's Black Infant Health (BIH) program supports pregnant African or African American women through access to specialized resources such as education groups and dedicated BIH health nurses; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing equity from the prenatal stage can have a direct impact on infant and toddler health as well as life-long health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, African American students are a focus of the Santa Clara County Office of Education's (SCCOE) [Inclusion Collaborative's Ways 2 Equity Playbook](#). The Playbook examines major equity issues impacting African American students in the educational system and provides tools to confront inequities and plan for improvement. An enhancement to the Ways 2 Equity Playbook "[Spotlight on African American Students](#)" was published in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE partners with community-based organizations, including the African American Community Service Agency, Santa Clara County Alliance for Black Educators, and the Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet of Silicon Valley, to improve educational outcomes for African American students through school support programs (tutoring, after-school homework centers, mental health services, student advocacy) focusing on African American students in eastside schools in particular and in Santa Clara County schools in general; and

**WHEREAS**, the contributions and achievements of Black citizens are an essential part of the core curriculum throughout the year. Black History Month provides an opportunity to highlight the unique contributions of the African American community; and

**WHEREAS**, in alignment with the SCCOE goal to improve student equity, the County Superintendent of Schools and the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) observe and honor Black History Month and encourage educators, students, and families to learn about the heritage and achievements of African Americans through appropriate programs and activities that reflect the theme for 2024; now

**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 and honor the month of February as Black History Month.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on January 31, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and 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