

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No. 2293-4

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

WHEREAS, the 2022 Black History Month theme is Black Health and Wellness; and

WHEREAS, while this year's theme recognizes the significant role of Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, it also brings awareness to other practices (e.g., birth workers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) used throughout the African Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, the theme recognizes activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to foster good health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated every February as an homage to the achievements of African Americans, who have shaped American history - from Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks to the first Black President and Vice-President of the United States of America. The Association for the Study of African American Life History (ASALH) chose the second week in February 1926 to celebrate. 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 2020-2021 academic year, statewide enrollment of African American/Black students was 5.2%, or 309,827 students, of total enrollment and 1.8%, or 4,554 students, in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, the state of California established the California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) 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 SCCOE's 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" will be published this month; and

WHEREAS, the County Office of Education partners with community-based organizations, including the 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) targeting 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 observes and honors Black History Month and encourages educators, students, and families to learn about the heritage and achievements of African Americans through appropriate programs and activities that reflect the theme for 2022; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and 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 February 2, 2022, by the following vote:

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

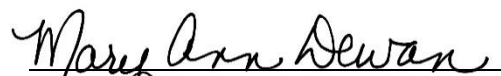
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Trustee Kamei



Peter Ortiz, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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