

RESOLUTION RECOGNITION OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No. 2437-5

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2006 President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month. This is a time where 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, such Jewish American contributors include the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, appointed to the Supreme Court in 1993 by President Bill Clinton, who was the first Jewish woman justice; beloved children's and young adult author, Judy Blume; and, scientist physician, Jonas Salk, who in 1955 discovered a vaccine for polio; 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 people, 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, California is home to the second-largest Jewish population in the nation, more than 1.1 million people. 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; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 20, 2024, by the following vote:

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

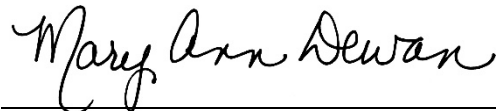
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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