

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SIKH AWARENESS and APPRECIATION MONTH and  
DENOUNCING ALL HATE CRIMES and BIAS INCIDENTS AGAINST SIKH AMERICANS**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2326-3**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools are honored to join communities throughout the state of California to recognize and celebrate November as Sikh Appreciation and Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikhs first came to California in 1899 through the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco. The Sikh pioneers initially worked on railroad construction projects and in lumber mills. By 1910, these pioneers turned to farming in the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys; and

**WHEREAS**, the first Gurdwara, a place of worship, community, service and education, in the US was established in Stockton in 1912. Each Gurdwaras contains a Langar hall, or community kitchen, where free communal meals are prepared and served; and

**WHEREAS**, the current population of American Sikhs has grown to 500,000 and there are now close to 300 Gurdwaras in the US. Eighty-two of which are in California, including the Gurdwara Sahib of San Jose, the largest Gurdwara in North America; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikhs have made important contributions socially, economically, politically, and culturally and have pursued a wide variety of diverse professions including farming, security services, and transportation services, medicine, law, engineers, teachers, and small business owners and in other notable capacities; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikhs have had a history of being targets of hate crimes since they arrived in the US more than a century ago and research conducted by the Sikh community shows that Sikh students, particularly those that carry the identity, experience bullying at rates twice the national average; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is committed to its core principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and partnership; providing excellent educational opportunities to all students, without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, income, sexual orientation, or disability and denouncing all forms of discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing November as Sikh Appreciation and Awareness Month and stand in solidarity with Sikh communities, upholding their safety and rights, condemns all hate crimes and bias incidents against them, especially acts that are predicated on religious intolerance.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on October 4, 2023, by the following vote:

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

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Victoria Chon, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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