



**RESOLUTION HONORING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE/NATIVE AMERICANS  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2271-1**

**WHEREAS**, the second Monday of October is nationally celebrated as Indigenous Peoples’ Day and the month of November is Native American Heritage Month, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is honored to acknowledge and celebrate local and national American Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous People, in particular the Muwekma Ohlone, of the Santa Clara County valley region have had and continue to have distinct, rich cultures binding them to the Earth and all of its inhabitants; and

**WHEREAS**, over 70 percent of American Indian and Alaskan Native people now live in urban areas with California having the largest populations in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2010 census reported 26,569 American Indian/Alaskan Natives living in Santa Clara County representing over 180 tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Muwekma Ohlone, Amah Mutsun, Esselen, and Taymen tribes of our region have suffered severe injustice and dispossession, the Santa Clara County Office of Education joins the City of San Jose in honoring and supporting the first people of the region as efforts are made to revive their culture, language, and history; and

**WHEREAS**, on a national level there are Native Americans that continue to make history such as James Ramos the first California Native American to be elected to the State Assembly and Joy Harjo the nation’s 23rd Poet Laureate and the first Native American poet to serve in the position; and

**WHEREAS**, locally we celebrate and honor such individuals as activists Kanyon “Coyote Woman” Sayer-Roods and Anne Marie Sayer. Anne Marie is the steward of Indian Canyon, the only federally recognized Indigenous land in the Bay Area. Kanyon, Anne Marie’s daughter, has released a film of the activism of both she and her mother titled, “In the Land of My Ancestors”; and

**WHEREAS**, such organizations as The Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) with its five Santa Clara County chapters are committed to the support and advancement of Native Americans in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and careers. And, the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley under the leadership of Sonya M. Tetnowski, a Makah Tribal Member, has offered comprehensive health care and wellness services since 1977; and

**WHEREAS**, to further promote and deepen the lessons of Native American history, then governor Jerry Brown signed AB 738 in 2017, which required the state’s Instructional Quality Commission to create a Native American studies class curriculum for high schools that satisfies the elective course requirements

for admission to the University of California and California State Universities, and AB 2016 which created an elective high school ethnic studies course that could also include Native American history and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to enhancing equity and diversity, and remains dedicated to providing schools and districts with resources and supports to advance ethnic studies courses and curriculum; 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 both Indigenous Peoples' Day in October, and November as Native American Heritage Month.

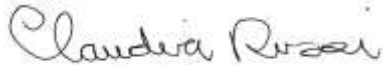
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on October 21, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: President Rossi, Vice President King, Trustees Di Salvo, Kamei, Mah, Ortiz and Song

NOES: none

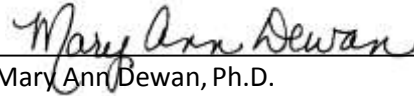
ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Claudia Rossi, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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