



## **RESOLUTION #21-04**

### **Supporting People of Asian and Pacific Island Ancestry and Condemning Hatred and Violence Toward Asian-Americans**

**WHEREAS**, basic human decency requires a respect and acceptance for people of all backgrounds, and the motto of the United States of America is “E pluribus unum,” (Out of many, one); and

**WHEREAS**, America’s professed values include a commitment to liberty, equality and justice for all – values the country has often failed to reach but should never stop striving to attain; and

**WHEREAS**, America’s diversity is a source of strength and prosperity, and the quality of American life expands with every step that diminishes the persistence of our nation’s tragic legacy of white supremacy; and

**WHEREAS**, California is home to large populations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), people who have enriched the state in countless and invaluable ways, including in culture, science, academia, business, politics, and community life; and

**WHEREAS**, people of AAPI ancestry have suffered intense discrimination since California’s earliest days of colonization, including, but not limited to, the inhumane policies and treatment toward Chinese immigrants in the gold mining era, the Chinese Exclusion Act, the persecution of Filipino American workers, the illegal internment of Japanese American Citizens during World War II, prejudice and discrimination against Vietnamese immigrants, and the rise in violence against South Asians after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Cruz county not only shares the national and state responsibility to overcome our history of hatred and violence toward AAPI persons and communities, but also must acknowledge and overcome the legacy of the county’s own history, including its central roles in the anti-Chinese movement and local persecution of Filipino workers exemplified in the 1930 Watsonville Filipino riots; and

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**WHEREAS**, that discrimination continues today in the repugnant form of terroristic violence against Asian Americans; and a climate where Americans of Asian descent are being othered, targeted, scapegoated and killed because of their race; and

**WHEREAS**, despite some progress reflected in an overall U.S. decrease in reported hate crimes, hate crimes targeting people of Asian ancestry rose by nearly 150 percent during 2020-21; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the California Department of Education, students of Asian, Filipino and Asian Pacific Islander heritage comprise approximately one out of every eight California students attending K-12 public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, in many California school districts, AAPI students are expressing fear of violence and harassment when returning to in-person instruction as the COVID-19 pandemic eases; and

**WHEREAS**, schools not only have an obligation to prepare students academically but also must provide the foundation for global citizenship as well as participation in civic responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, schools must provide inclusive curriculum that highlights AAPI and other underrepresented communities' histories to help students value themselves and others; and

**WHEREAS**, schools must help dispel the "model minority" myth, a stereotype that the AAPI communities are a monolithic group with uniform endowments and achievements, a way of thinking that erases the economic, academic, and social struggles of diverse communities and can add to the burden and social and emotional toll that AAPI students often bear; and

**WHEREAS**, our values of inclusiveness, humanity and respect demand that we support our students and staff of Asian ancestry and the larger AAPI community in this moment of national strife and at all times; and

**WHEREAS**, public institutions, including in education, must acknowledge their own roles in reinforcing anti-AAPI violence and discrimination, and must affirmatively counter the influence of white supremacy and racism in curricula, hiring, and allocation of resources; and

**WHEREAS**, public institutions, including in education, must strive to eliminate institutional racism in education, employment, and leadership;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education hereby condemns hatred, xenophobia, harassment, and violence towards people of AAPI ancestry; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education commits to creating a supportive, inclusive culture that fully embraces students and staff of AAPI descent.

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Trustees of the Santa Cruz County Board of Education on the 15th  
day of April, 2021 by the following vote:

**AYES:** Acosta, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Wall, Filicetti

**NOES:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**



Rose Filicetti, President

**ATTEST:**



Dr. Faris Sabbah  
County Superintendent of Schools  
Secretary, Santa Cruz County Board of Education