



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBAH • SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • santacruzcoe.org
Mr. Ed Acosta • Ms. Rose Filicetti • Ms. Sandra Nichols • Ms. Sue Roth •
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Alyssa Wall

RESOLUTION #21-02

2021 National Black History Month

WHEREAS, Africans were forcibly brought to American shores to be enslaved as early as the 17th century; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans have subsequently faced injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, racist attacks, discrimination, and denial of basic, fundamental rights; and

WHEREAS, in spite of these injustices, many of which continue to exist today, Black Americans have played significant roles in the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancements of the United States; and

WHEREAS, National African American History Month, also known as Black History Month, had its origins in 1915 when historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month in February celebrates the contributions that Black Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality, and deepens our understanding of our Nation's history; and

WHEREAS, Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden have issued Presidential messages and proclamations recognizing the significance of National African American History Month by urging all Americans to recognize the important contributions made by African Americans to American life and culture; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has similarly passed laws and adopted resolutions since 1986 to recognize the significance of contributions made by Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society; and

WHEREAS, The Black History Month theme this year is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity" and communities are encouraged to align events and activities with this theme; and

Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Resolution #21-02 Recognizing Black History Month

February 18, 2021

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for us to continue our collective journey honoring and deepening our knowledge of the history, struggles, and achievements of Black Americans and people of African descent that have been marginalized from mainstream educational curricula and public discussions because of our country's legacy of slavery, and institutional and structural racism; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education is committed to valuing diversity and believes deeply that equity, respect, and justice are central to the character of who we are, to the health of our democracy, and to the well-being of our world; and

WHEREAS, During this month of recognition and celebration of Black Americans and their contributions to this country, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education hopes and commits that throughout the year the education community will work to disrupt manifestations of anti-blackness sentiments in our communities and in our schools; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education hereby recognizes and supports National Black History Month in February by encouraging public officials, educators, librarians, and school communities to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education hereby supports school districts in their effort to commemorate National Black History Month by providing instructional resources, relevant research, resources, and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of Black American students.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** by the Board of Education Santa Cruz County on this **18th** Day of **February, 2021** by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

Absent: None



Rose Filicetti, President

ATTEST:



Dr. Faris Sabbah

County Superintendent of Schools

Secretary, Santa Cruz County Board of Education