



RESOLUTION #23-15
IN RECOGNITION OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of May is recognized as National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to recognize and honor the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States as designated by the United States Congress since 1992; and

WHEREAS, National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated in May to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, where Chinese immigrants played a key role in laying track and completing the historic project; 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

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, Asian American and Pacific Islander 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 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders 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 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders 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 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders 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 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders 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 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders 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 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders descent.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools recognizes the month of May as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Resolution #23-15 In Recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Santa Cruz County Board of Education
April 20, 2023

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Trustees of the Santa Cruz County Board of Education on the 20th day of April, 2023 by the following vote:

Ayes: Filicetti, Nichols, Roth, Van Allen
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Acosta, Alto, Sanchez



Bruce Van Allen
Board President



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