



**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 • [www.santacruzcoe.org](http://www.santacruzcoe.org)  
Mr. Ed Acosta • Mr. Edward Estrada • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth  
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustee: Natalie Hofkins and Ruben Marcus

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**RESOLUTION #25-03**  
**RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS 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 made significant contributions to 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**, Black History Month is a time for us to continue our collective journey honoring and deepening our knowledge of the history and contributions of Black Americans and people of African descent that have been marginalized from mainstream curricula and discussions because of our country's legacy of slavery, and institutional and structural racism; and

**WHEREAS**, Black history is still being made today in Santa Cruz County, with the naming of UCSC's John Lewis College, the acclaimed Black Graduation recognizing local Black students, and the election of Justin Cummings as the first Black Santa Cruz County Supervisor; and

**WHEREAS**, former Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools Michael Watkins became the first Black County Superintendent in California history following his election in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, the Black History Month 2025 theme, "African Americans and Labor," sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the Santa Cruz County Board of Education are committed to valuing diversity and believe 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**, at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, it is our hope that during this month of recognition and celebration of Black Americans and their contributions made to this country, we will work to disrupt manifestations of anti-Black sentiments in our communities and our schools; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize and support National African American History Month in February 2025 by encouraging public officials, educators, librarians, and school communities to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Resolution #25-03 Recognizing February As Black History Month  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education  
February 20, 2025

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

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 20th day of February, 2025, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Estrada, Larson, Sanchez, Roth, Van Allen, Williams

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:** Acosta

**ABSTAIN:**



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Abel Sanchez, Board President  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education



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