



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

Mr. Ed Acosta • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustee: Vicente Guillen Martinez and Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #26-07
RECOGNIZING MARCH AS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, the advocacy efforts of the National Women’s History Project led to an annual observance of Women’s History Month, which highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society and is celebrated during March in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the broad historical context for attention to the role of women in our history is the struggle to remove the patriarchal and misogynist restrictions on freedom and equality for all inherited from our founding histories; and

WHEREAS, the persistence of patriarchal social, political, and economic power relations, and the reproduction of misogynist values in young people, are not simply historical legacy, but are actively promoted and enforced by some elements of society; and

WHEREAS, recent gains for the status and safety of women and girls in the United States are under threat from the highest levels of political advocacy and governmental authority, threatening the fulfillment of our nation’s founding purpose; and

WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made significant and historic contributions to the growth and strength of our society in countless ways; and

WHEREAS, the leadership of women in elected office and the contributions of our own County Board of Education trustees exemplify the community and civic engagement of girls and women in our county; and

WHEREAS, women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, and the civil rights movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, the Native-American woman named Sacajawea, at the age of 16, carrying her infant son, helped the Lewis and Clark Expedition on their Voyage of Discovery in the early 1800s, with her extensive familiarity with the Native-American tribes and the geography in the Rocky Mountains; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869, with activists and reformers working for many years to win the women's right to vote until the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1920; and

WHEREAS, Ruby Bridges, at just six years old, became the first African American student to integrate an elementary school in the South, paving the way for school desegregation; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was an American activist who was a leader in the Montgomery bus boycott and has been recognized by the United States Congress as "the first lady of civil rights"; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta is an American labor leader and civil rights activist who worked with Cesar Chavez as co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association; and

WHEREAS, Greta Thunberg and Rachel Carson are recognized champions of the dangers of climate change and leaders in the environmental movement; and

WHEREAS, Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, on which she served from 1981 to 2006, paving the way for other women justices, such as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Amy Coney Barrett, and Ketanji Brown Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Lilly Ledbetter fought to close the gap between women's and men's wages, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law by President Obama in 2009; and

WHEREAS, equal pay is a matter of justice, fairness, and dignity — about living up to our values and who we are as a nation — and, in 2020, the average woman working full-time, year-round, for wages or a salary earned 83 cents for every dollar paid to their average male counterpart; and

WHEREAS, the disparities are even greater for Black, Native American, Latina, and certain subpopulations of Asian women when compared to white men, with disabled women continuing to experience significant disparities and make 80 cents for every dollar compared to men with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the pay gap reflects outright discrimination as well as barriers that women face in accessing good-paying jobs and meeting caregiving responsibilities — including a lack of affordable child care, paid family and medical leave, and fair and predictable scheduling — which often prevent women from joining and staying in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching, labor, business, and in the study of history; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE) has encouraged pathways for girls to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) careers and works to address the under-representation of women in non-traditional careers by supporting teachers through professional development, raising awareness and expanding opportunities for girls; and

WHEREAS, the COE is partnering with the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History and Lookout Santa Cruz to host the 3rd Annual HERStory Celebration on March 6, 2026, to elevate the untold stories of the women impacting Santa Cruz County's past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, additional education is needed to increase the knowledge of all citizens relating to the contributions of women, opportunities for girls and women to develop their leadership skills, and assist female educators in advancing in their careers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools honor the contributions that women have made throughout history and commit to supporting efforts to improve opportunities for girls and women.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 19th day of February 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Acosta, Kyle, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Rachel Williams

Rachel Williams, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Faris Sabbah

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