

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of Recognizing)
June 19, 2020, as Juneteenth) **RESOLUTION**
In San Diego Unified)

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest celebration of the emancipation of African-American slaves; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates our collective commitment to liberty and equality in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, along with the Emancipation Proclamation, issued January 1, 1863, and the 13th Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery, ratified by Congress on December 6, 1865; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, freeing the slaves in the South. However, southern slave owners ignored that order. On June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas and enforced the president’s order, freeing the final African-American slaves two and a half years after it was first decreed; and

WHEREAS, Through other systems of oppression, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, Black Codes, mass incarceration, exclusionary policies, police violence, and segregation, the exploitation of the Black community continued past slavery and persists to this day, affecting the physical and mental health, safety, and education of the Black community; and

WHEREAS, Liberation from these systems of oppression must include ongoing assessment and commitment to personal and professional growth within the educational, economic, social, and political arenas. This liberation is manifested in ways such as educational & financial literacy; equitable access to quality homes, jobs, schools, and service providers; and indistinguishable outcome predictability based on racial identity; and

WHEREAS, the accurate representation of the contributions and experiences of the African American community were, for generations, and continue to be, systematically excluded from and misrepresented in history textbooks, mainstream media, and classroom discussions, teaching San Diego Unified students about Black history and contemporary events is a critical affirmation of the fact Black history is American history; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Unified School District opposes and rejects any form of oppression and pledges to support the Black community and their intersecting identities by working to achieve genuine equity, access, and success for our students, employees, and communities which we serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Diego Unified School District Board of Education does hereby recognize June 19th, 2020, as Juneteenth, ~~a holiday to be observed every year, as~~ a day of celebration of the past, present, and future of Black resilience, culture, and liberation. We acknowledge that “Black Lives Matter” and work to center students in our efforts to “build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities... by combating and countering acts of violence, creating space for Black imagination and innovation, and centering Black joy” (Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, Inc.).

We call on educators to teach the importance of Juneteenth and current movements such as “Black Lives Matter” that advance liberation efforts for the Black community with classroom lessons throughout the year; just as we fight for equity, justice, and basic human rights through each interaction with youth, the principles of the Black Lives Matter movement and the promise of liberation that Juneteenth celebrates should be explicitly talked and discussed year round.

We encourage staff, students, and community members to use this day to reflect on the historical oppression of the Black community and engage in individual and collective action to break the cycle of systemic racism that exists today through: commitment to education, self-improvement, advocacy, and activism. Resources to support education and advocacy around Juneteenth can be found at <http://culturalawarenesscenter.weebly.com/june.html>. Contact the Department of Youth Advocacy at 619-732-3366 or on their website: youthadvocacy.us for more information.

Adopted and approved by the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District at a regular meeting held on the 23rd day of June 2020.

President

Vice President

Member

Member

Member

Student Board Member