

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

IN THE MATTER OF RECOGNIZING        )  
FEBRUARY 2020 AS NATIONAL         )  
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN            )  
HISTORY MONTH                            )        **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Americans of African descent helped develop our nation in countless ways, some recognized, some unrecognized and unrecorded; and

**WHEREAS**, the origin of Black History Month began in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, and grew out of “Negro History Week,” the creation of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African-Americans who established as a month-long celebration to reflect on the history, teachings, contributions, and achievements of African-Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, Black History month was officially established as a month-long celebration to reflect on the history, teachings, contributions and achievements of African-Americans and is a national tradition established in response to the inadequate and often times biased depiction of Black history and African-American communities in history books and schools’ curricula; and

**WHEREAS**, since the beginning of American history, people of African descent have fought and died for the advancement of the essence and substance of American democracy; an ideal from which they have frequently been excluded; and

**WHEREAS**, Black history reflects an unbreakable spirit of perseverance and pride in its struggles and triumphs in the face of racism, bias, prejudice, and oppression to equally share in the opportunities of a nation founded upon the principles of freedom and liberty for all people; and

**WHEREAS**, the history and contributions of African-American citizens have consistently been overlooked, misinterpreted, and undervalued in the curriculum of public education institutions prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and still today; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that “matter” is the minimum for Black students—that state education data reflects the egregious disparities in experience, treatment, opportunity, access, visibility, and academic success. We are committed to addressing these disparities through our Black Youth Call to Action, focusing on staff diversity, ethnic studies, grading practices, and student discipline and will be held accountable to progress by the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee on Racial Justice and Equity; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month will offer excellent opportunities to focus the energy, attention, commitment, and action of the entire community on closing the health, experience, opportunity, and achievement gaps for Black students and families with a critical examination by our staff of our progress toward and execution of San Diego Unified School District’s Black Youth Call to Action; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is a vehicle to promote anti-biased, anti-racist, restorative, and culturally sustaining practices on every school campus and District office; and

**WHEREAS**, Black history curriculum and materials are available to all San Diego Unified educators through our Ethnic Studies curriculum, Identity-Based Curriculum Modules, and our Digital Cultural Awareness Center; and

**WHEREAS**, we are committed to Ethnic Studies for ALL students and the ongoing professional learning opportunities for all District staff to engage in critical self-awareness and anti-biased/anti-racist leadership; and we are encouraging educators, students and families to learn about the heritage and achievements of African-Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, districtwide activities during the month of February, include library card design in collaboration with the San Diego Public Library, community leader read alouds, artistic and cultural events, virtual field trips, and the Black Lives Matter Call to action week; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, in honor of Black History Month, San Diego Unified School District’s Central Office will fly the Black Lives Matter flag. The flag signifies our commitment to creating a just, equitable, and empathetic world. It is a symbol of inclusion, especially for our students of color. The flag will be a reminder that history, including Black history, is not just something of the past. History is constantly being made, and this flag and this movement are a part of it. Together, we demonstrate our commitment to a quality educational experience that is equally accessible to all students, free from racist and bias practices; and

**WHEREAS**, not only during the month of February, but throughout the year, it is important that we, as a district, seek to understand how to thoughtfully and holistically address African-American disparities in experience, quality of educational and social interactions, and outcomes as well as each of our roles in dismantling racist, biased, and oppressive systems and practices in order to move towards greater equity in our educational system and the greater community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the San Diego Unified School District Board of Education does hereby adopt this resolution to honor Black History Month and recognize the tremendous contributions made by African Americans to the development of our culture, communities, and nation; and our ongoing commitment to fostering an anti-racist, anti-biased and restorative district for all students. Black lives matter.

Adopted and approved by the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District at the regular meeting held on the 26th day of January 2021.

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President

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Vice President

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Member

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Member

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Member

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Student Board Member

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Superintendent

LEGALITY AND FORM APPROVED

Approved in public meeting of the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District on \_\_\_\_\_

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ANDRA M. GREENE, General Counsel  
San Diego Unified School District

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Marty Stultz, Board Action Officer, Board of Education