

San Rafael City Schools
Resolution 2021-24
In Support and Recognition of Black History Month, February 2021

WHEREAS, each year during the month of February the citizens of the United States celebrate Black History Month and the actions, words, and achievements of so many African Americans who have contributed to the success and prosperity of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, BLACK HISTORY MONTH was officially recognized by the federal government to honor and recognize the struggles and achievements of African Americans to our national life and culture; and

WHEREAS, August 2019 marked 400 years since the first arrival of Africans to present-day America, and the United States Congress established the 400 Years of African American History Commission to commemorate the historic heritage and active contributions that Americans of African descent have made to help shape the cultural, academic, social, economic, and moral attributes of this nation; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the African slave trade that created an institution of white supremacy in this nation, Africans and African Americans have nonetheless continued to persevere and move forward in society, fighting for their freedom and also for the freedom of all Americans over time; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Barack H. Obama was elected the first African American President of the United States and served two presidential terms; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, California historically elected the most African Americans to serve in the Legislature, totaling 12 members; and

WHEREAS, 2019 marked the highest number of African American members serving in the 116th United States Congress, totaling 55 members; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Kamala D. Harris was elected the first woman, African-American, South Asian Vice-President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, with our nation shaken by high-profile incidents of racial injustice, African American families and our country are demanding strong leadership and action for equity and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 theme for BLACK HISTORY MONTH is The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity and exemplifies the complexity of the foundation of African American life that has been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the days of slavery to our current time, and the realization that family members and ancestors are spread out across states, nations and continents; and

WHEREAS, San Rafael City Schools has established core district values of Community, Equity and Joy to uphold its focus on building inclusive communities and helping individuals understand equity, joyfully celebrate diversity and affirm identity; and

WHEREAS, inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, a local chapter of Diversify our Narrative has been founded by San Rafael and Terra Linda High School students with a focus on affirming identities and representing and celebrating multiple perspectives within our classrooms through the inclusion of more racially diverse and anti-racist texts; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging the courageous fight for the rights, liberties, and freedoms for all Americans, the San Rafael City Schools Board of Education encourages educators, students, and families to learn about BLACK HISTORY MONTH and about the heritage and achievements of African Americans through appropriate programs and activities that reflect the theme for 2021:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Rafael City Schools Board of Education does hereby adopt this resolution to honor BLACK HISTORY MONTH and recognizes the tremendous contributions made by African Americans, and encourages all schools to commemorate this occasion both now and throughout the school year with appropriate instructional materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to all schools within the district.

Linda M. Jackson
Board President

Jim Hogeboom
Superintendent

January 25, 2021