

SANTA CLARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION #21-26

**RECOGNITION OF JUNE AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND
QUEER OR QUESTIONING (LGBTQ+) PRIDE MONTH**

WHEREAS, June is nationally recognized as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ+) Pride Month. Pride Month is celebrated in June in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Riots and highlights the work to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for LGBTQ+ Americans; and,

WHEREAS, this decisive moment in history was followed by the creation of gay rights organizations in every major city in the United States within two years of the Stonewall uprising; and,

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2009, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act was enacted. In 2014, existing Federal hate crimes laws were expanded to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; as passed by Congress was signed into law by President Obama; and,

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2016, the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education released joint guidance to help provide educators the information they need to ensure that all students, including transgender students, can attend school in a safe and inclusive environment free from discrimination based on sex; and,

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020, in a landmark decision for LGBTQ+ persons, the United States Supreme Court ruled that employment discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation and gender identity violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and thus is illegal; and,

WHEREAS, acceptance and support for all youth, including those who are LGBTQ+, make communities and schools safer places; and,

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth in California experience higher rates of poor emotional health, substance use, and school absences compared with their straight-identified youth. Santa Clara County reported 2,426, or 7% of students who identify as LGBTQ+ on the available Project Cornerstone survey (2017). Of this student group, only 11% reported feeling valued by their communities. These young people are reported as three times more likely to attempt suicide; and,

WHEREAS, lack of acceptance and affirmation increases mental health risks. The *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance* (YRBS) survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), found that 28% of transgender youth whose pronouns are not affirmed attempted suicide in the past year. That number decreased to 12% for those whose pronouns are affirmed by all or most people in their lives; and,

WHEREAS, according to the same YRBS survey, 43% of transgender youth have been bullied on school property, 29% of transgender youth, 21% of gay and lesbian youth, and 22% of bisexual youth have attempted suicide; and,

WHEREAS, state law under the FAIR Education Act (2011), requires that California K-12 schools provide Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) representations of people with disabilities and people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender in our curricula, and the inclusions of LGBTQ+ history in Kindergarten through Grade 12 education; and,

WHEREAS, Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD) harassment and bullying policies that specifically mention sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression aim to help students feel more safe; lower the levels of bullying; decrease the incidents of harassment related to sexual orientation; increase teacher/staff intervention; and improve reporting of incidents, and,

WHEREAS, SCUSD is an institute of learning that is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student success while lifting up equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership. SCUSD works throughout the year to cultivate a positive environment by offering support for all students through programs such as foster and homeless youth services, student wellness programs, school climate initiatives, anti-bullying strategies, and positive behavior interventions; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of Santa Clara Unified School District believes that schools should be a safe, supportive and respectful environment for all students regardless of their actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, religion, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Board of Santa Clara Unified School District recognizes and honors June as National LGBTQ+ Pride Month and remains committed to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish safe environments in our schools throughout the district.

This Resolution was:

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of June 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: _____ ABSTENTIONS: _____

NOES: _____ ABSENT: _____

President of the Board of Education
Santa Clara Unified School District

Clerk of the Board of Education
Santa Clara Unified School District