



# *Board of Education*

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## Juneteenth National Independence Day

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 21-22/02**

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Emancipation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” and “Freedom Day,” is the oldest African American holiday observance in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates the strong survival instinct of African Americans who were first brought to this country stacked in the bottom of slave ships in a month-long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the “Middle Passage;” and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 1865, Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, abolishing slavery throughout the United States and its territories; and

**WHEREAS**, spontaneous celebration erupted throughout the country when African Americans learned of their freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed when General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3, almost two and one-half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement; it is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, and family gatherings; it is a time for reflection and rejoicing; it is a time for assessment, self-improvement, and planning for the future; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth symbolizes freedom, celebrates the abolishment of slavery, and reminds all Americans of the significant contributions of African Americans to our society; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth celebrations are a tribute to those African Americans who fought so long and worked so hard to make the dream of equality a reality; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed a bill into law establishing June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day making it a national federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Lynwood Unified School District advocates for the continuance of the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth to acknowledge and condemn the atrocities and degradation of our shared past and honors this day of resilience in the face of injustice and inhumanity for present and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the District acknowledges the historical relevance of this significant event and the generational trauma that accompanies being subject to racism, discrimination, and prejudice as a barrier to positive mental and physical health and well-being, economic opportunity, and academic achievement;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lynwood Unified Board of Education declares that for the year 2021, that Friday, July 2, 2021 will be declared a holiday for all staff and students;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Administration will partner with employee labor partners on the implementation of the holiday in future years and make the holiday an annual event in Lynwood Unified School District instructional calendar and employee work years;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education urges the people of Lynwood to join in celebrating Juneteenth as a day to honor and reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States and honor the African American community and the systems of racism and oppression that impact every aspect of African Americans' lives.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Lynwood Unified School District on July 22, 2021.

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Maria G. Lopez – Board President

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