

**Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
Board of Education
RESOLUTION – IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Whereas, Carter G. Woodson, noted Black scholar, historian and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

Whereas, Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week on February 12, 1926, and which for many years was celebrated by Black people in the United States on the 2nd week of February (chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln); and

Whereas, in 1976, as part of the nation's Bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and February was established as Black History Month, and is now widely observed; and

Whereas, it is important to understand the different origins, cultures and heritages of all Americans, and recognize that the history of African Americans in this country is part of our shared collective American story; and

Whereas, Black History month is a time to recognize and honor the many achievements of Black Americans and to acknowledge the scope of their contributions to the United States of America, as well as the important and vital roles this group has played in our Nation's development and history; and

Whereas, it is entirely fitting that society should develop a full appreciation of the innumerable accomplishments of African-Americans, and public education can work to achieve this by committing students to a full review and assessment of the great contributions by African Americans to the arts, sciences, literature, economic development, education, exploration, defense and leadership and growth of this Nation; and

Whereas, even as civil rights laws have given legal consequences to overt discriminatory practices and racial intolerance, only through education can attitudes be changed and ignorance eliminated; and

Whereas, Black History Month seeks to bridge the gap wherein American history failed to accurately portray and record the achievements of Black Americans; and

Whereas, learning from the struggles and accomplishments of others helps strengthen our bond as a national family:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education does hereby adopt this Resolution to encourage: the celebration of BLACK HISTORY MONTH; the instruction to our students on the achievements and contributions of Black citizens; fostering in our students a greater understanding of the roles African Americans have played throughout the history of our Nation; and helping all students understand their responsibilities in protecting and preserving the humanity of all people.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of February 2019 by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein
Board President

Dr. Ben Drati
Superintendent