

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION  
RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH**

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers rode into Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended, that slavery had been abolished throughout the United States in January that same year with the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, and that all slaves in the confederate states had been freed with President Lincoln signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, nearly three years prior; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery, is also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Emancipation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” and “Freedom Day;” and

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

**WHEREAS**, for former slaves, the Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, praying, and gathering remaining family members together, and as such, Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date; and

**WHEREAS**, although Juneteenth education and celebrations declined in America in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s saw a resurgence of interest in Juneteenth, along with renewed community celebrations of the day; and

**WHEREAS**, observance of Juneteenth spread from Texas, where it became an official state holiday in 1980, to the neighboring states of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, as well as Alabama, Florida, and California, where many African American Texans migrated; and

**WHEREAS**, The Juneteenth tradition has been celebrated in the State of California since the 1930s; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1994, the era of the “Modern Juneteenth Movement” began when a group of Juneteenth leaders from across the country gathered in New Orleans, Louisiana, to work for greater national recognition of Juneteenth; and

**WHEREAS**, today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement, and is a time for reflection and rejoicing, 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;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education encourages our district’s employees, students, and families 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 how they have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting unity and equality.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Superintendent transmit copies of this resolution to the school sites for distribution.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** THIS 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

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Dr. Ben Drati