



RESOLUTION 2020.32

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING APRIL AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

WHEREAS, autism is a developmental difference that typically manifests during the first few years of an individual's life, regardless of race, color, and geographical location and results from a different type of neurological wiring that affects social, cognitive and communication function. The differences range widely in each individual and are as unique as every person's neurological makeup. The difference is understood as a disability to function effectively in today's mainstream society, largely built by neurotypical individuals.

WHEREAS, In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that approximately 1 in 54 children in the U.S. was diagnosed with autism. This number seems to be on the rise due to higher awareness and increased testing in the early developmental phases of an individual's life.

WHEREAS, The cost of caring for Americans with autism had reached \$268 billion in 2015 and would rise to \$461 billion by 2025 in the absence of more-effective interventions and support across the life span.

WHEREAS, Young adults with autism are less likely to continue their education past secondary school and 35 percent do not have a job or receive postgraduate education after leaving high school due to lack of adequate integration support. Very few colleges and universities have established on-campus programs for neurodiverse students once they are enrolled, offering academic support as well as assistance with life skills to ease the adjustment to college life.

WHEREAS, Individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community support services to ensure their health, safety and wellbeing. Families need support with the ;psychological stressors and economic burdens that autism presents; seclusion, isolation and segregation from mainstream society.

WHEREAS, The US Dept. of Justice has reported that the rate of violent crimes against people with developmental and other disabilities is double compared to people without disabilities. Individuals diagnosed with autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may be at a higher risk due to predators.

WHEREAS, The work of autism acculturation has begun on a grassroots level, at Milpitas High School through the incorporation of Ally Clubs such as the PRAGNYA club who organize weekly integration activities in the CBI Classroom like Lunch Socials, Karaoke and pizza parties, involving them in their Club meetings, School parades etc. Young Creative Society, who conduct

integrated art projects and Best Buddies who pair up with their ASD friends to play games are some of the other clubs at Milpitas High School who actively engage in autism acceptance and inclusion activities.

WHEREAS, In 2019, the California State Legislature issued a certificate of commendation for the Ally Club at Milpitas High School in recognition of their autism awareness and acculturation efforts and for hosting the first ever all inclusive, integrated Dance Contest STEP UP FOR PRAGNYA. Ally President of the Milpitas High Ally Club, Michelle Pham also received Congressional Recognition for leading the autism acceptance efforts at her school. PRAGNYA Club Allies Michelle Pham, Nikhil Kichili, Amrit Gill and Nitin Ramesh initiated and contributed towards drafting the resolution for autism Acceptance at MUSD.

WHEREAS, When youth with autism get to participate in programs in their community with their family, friends and neighbors they learn from their peers who serve as their circle of support and also as role models to help them with social skills and communication, thereby preparing them for a life of dignity and respect, within the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Milpitas Unified School District hereby proclaims the month of April 2020 as Autism Acceptance Month and encourages all educators to commemorate this occasion with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs fostering integration.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Milpitas Unified School District Board of Education at a meeting held on April 28, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Hon Llen, President
Milpitas Unified School District
Board of Education

Kelly Yip-Chuan, Clerk
Milpitas Unified School District
Board of Education