

**WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 85-2021**  
**JUNETEENTH - JUNE 19, 2021**

*WHEREAS*, Juneteenth is the oldest celebration of the emancipation of African American slaves; and

*WHEREAS*, Juneteenth is a celebration observed in 47 states and the District of Columbia marking the end of slavery in the United States, following its establishment on the North American mainland in 1619; and

*WHEREAS*, Juneteenth celebrates our collective commitment to liberty and equality in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, along with the Emancipation Proclamation, issued January 1, 1863, and the 13th Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery, ratified by Congress on December 6, 1865; and

*WHEREAS*, President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, freeing the slaves in the South. However, southern slave owners ignored that order. On June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and enforced the president's order, freeing the final African-American slaves two and a half years after it was first decreed; and

*WHEREAS*, Through other systems of oppression, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, Black Codes, mass incarceration, exclusionary policies, police violence, and segregation, the exploitation of the Black community continued past slavery and persists to this day, affecting the physical and mental health, safety, and education of the Black community; and

*WHEREAS*, 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*, the West Contra Costa Unified School District opposes and rejects any form of oppression and pledges to support the Black community and their intersecting

identities by working to achieve genuine equity, access, and success for our students, employees, and communities which we serve.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,*** that the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education does hereby recognize June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth, a day of celebration of the past, present, and future of Black resilience, culture, and liberation.

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President of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District      Clerk of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District

