

## **Resolution Proclaiming October As LGBTQIA+ History Month**

**WHEREAS**, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, plus all other identities not encompassed in the acronym (LGBTQIA+) History Month, founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson, is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of October was selected to coincide with National Coming Out Day, October 11, which celebrates the anniversary of the first march on Washington for gay and lesbian rights in 1979; and

**WHEREAS**, the LGBTQIA+ History Month is meant to highlight and celebrate the history and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation ("GLAAD"), "during the early years, the celebration was largely marked by a call to action and commemoration ... but since then, LGBT History Month has blossomed into a national coordinated effort to highlight exemplary role models from the LGBT(QIA+) community"; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQIA+ History Month commemorates the impact that the LGBTQIA+ community has had on local, national, and international history; honors members of the LGBTQIA+ community who have been lost to hate crimes and HIV/AIDS; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQIA+ students experience high rates of bullying, victimization, and harassment at school on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, or that of their associates; and

**WHEREAS**, this bullying, victimization, and harassment has led to negative educational outcomes for LGBTQIA+ students, including higher rates of dropping out, higher rates of absenteeism, and lower postsecondary school aspirations; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQIA+ students also report higher rates of anxiety and depression; and

**WHEREAS**, school-age years are a critical time for LGBTQIA+ youth as they often "come out" or disclose their LGBTQIA+ identities to others during that time; and

**WHEREAS**, creating a welcoming and safe school environment for our LGBTQIA+ students, staff, families, and caregivers makes our school community more welcoming and safe to all; and

**WHEREAS**, the District supports education that celebrates our different identities; integrity in how we treat others; and courage to do what’s right by listening to, learning from, and respecting diverse viewpoints; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many reasons why LGBTQIA+ History Month is important, including the following reasons: to remember those across the world who live without rights; to learn about historic LGBTQIA+ figures and events; to remember how far we have come in the fight for equality; to teach LGBTQIA+ youth about the generosity and resiliency of the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as the ability to stand up and achieve what they believe in; and

**WHEREAS**, during the last decade, our country has made tremendous strides in the LGBTQIA+ equality movement, including legalizing gay marriage nationwide, electing LGBTQIA+ elected officials on local, state, and federal levels; and

**WHEREAS**, celebrating LGBTQIA+ History Month is particularly important now as the LGBTQIA+ community is once again being targeted by a slew of homophobic and transphobic bills introduced and adopted across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, this year we must reflect not only on the progress that has been made in the national and global effort to advance human rights, but also on the specific challenges that remain for members of LGBTQIA+ communities in the U.S. and around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Rosa City Schools is committed to recognizing and honoring the LGBTQIA+ community, including supporting and encouraging a dialogue that promotes equality, dignity, and human rights for all; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Governing Board of the Santa Rosa City Schools District hereby designates the month of October 2023, as LGBTQIA+ History Month.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Santa Rosa City Schools District on the 11th day of October, 2023.

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Ever Flores, Clerk

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Date