



EMBRACE • ENGAGE • EMPOWER

Resolution No. 2023/24-24
Date: November 8, 2023

Resolution Proclaiming November 14, 2023 as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Whereas, Ruby Bridges is an American activist who walked to school nearly every day and became a symbol of the civil rights movement at age six when she was the youngest of a group of African American students designated to integrate schools in the American South; and

Whereas, on November 14, 1960, Ruby Bridges was the only student of the group to enroll in William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans; and

Whereas, on her first day of school, she was escorted by four federal marshals, and spent the entire day in the principal's office as irate parents marched into the school to remove their children; and

Whereas, Ruby Bridges stood for equality and desegregation in the early 1960s; and

Whereas, Ruby Bridges is currently the chair of the Ruby Bridges Foundation, which she formed in 1999 to promote "the values of tolerance, respect, and appreciation of all differences;" and

Whereas, Ruby Bridges has asserted that, "Racism is a grown-up disease and we must stop using our children to spread it;" and

Whereas, in the 2017/2018 school year, scholars of Deborah Carlino's fifth-grade class from Martin Elementary School in the South San Francisco Unified School District learned about Ruby Bridges and were advocates for the adoption of a "Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day" as a way to honor Ruby's role in the Civil Rights Movement; and

Whereas, on May 10, 2018, the South San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education proclaimed November 14 as the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day; and

Whereas, on October 23, 2019, the students of Martin Elementary School presented a proclamation to the City Council of South San Francisco, who approved the designation of November 14 as the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day; and

Whereas, on September 10, 2021, the Senate of the State of California passed Senate Resolution 59, proclaiming that "November 14, 2021, and each November 14 thereafter, as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in the State of California, and in those years when November 14 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day will be celebrated on the following Wednesday;" and

Whereas, the Santa Rosa City Schools District believes in engaging student voices in partnering for an educational environment that emphasizes inclusion, diversity, validation and equity; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Santa Rosa City Schools District Board of Education hereby approves the adoption of “Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day,” to be honored annually by school-wide activities in both elementary and secondary schools on November 14.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote of the Governing Board of Santa Rosa City Schools, County of Sonoma, State of California on November 8, 2023.

Ever Flores, Clerk of the Board

Date