

Resolution for May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

WHEREAS, May marks the celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the US, and we take this time to honor our rich history, cultural diversity, achievements, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders play a significant role in the creation of a dynamic and pluralistic American society with 32 Asian ethnic groups and 77 Asian languages in California who contribute to the development and richness of this country; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islanders are one of the fastest growing racial/ethnic minority groups in the US, with California being home to the largest Asian American population and second largest Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Rosa, the AAPI community makes up 5.2% of Santa Rosa's population today and 5.3% of SRCS students; and

WHEREAS, AAPI activists persevered throughout the historically challenging times, including Lee Yick, who won a Supreme Court case that ensured that all people, citizens and noncitizens, had equal protection under the law in 1898; Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, who campaigned for women's suffrage in 1912; Larry Itliong and Phillip Vera Cruz who led the lengthy Filipino labor movement; Fred Korematsu, who refused to comply with Executive Order 9066 during WWII; Kiyoshi Kuromiya lifelong activist who was born in the Heart Mountain Wyoming internment camp in 1943; civil right figures Yuri Kochiyama and Grace Lee Boggs; instrumental AAPI architects, authors tech founders, politicians, athletes, and scientists as well as today's front line essential workers; and the historic milestone of the inauguration of the first U.S. South Asian-African American woman, Vice-President Harris; and

WHEREAS, the continued resiliency and determination of AAPIs prevails today in the face of systemic barriers to economic justice, health equity, and surging rates of anti-Asian harassment, scapegoating, exclusion, and violence that reflect centuries of anti-Asian xenophobia; and

WHEREAS, education is key to teaching how AAPIs experience life and race in America and to honor the diversity of the cultures, history, and richness that enhance the fabric of this country, including the young activists across the Pacific today who are using traditional ecological practices to combat threats to the ocean resources their communities have protected and thrived on for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, we are accountable for creating inclusive and adept educational environments so AAPI students are safe from bias-based assumptions that deny their diverse and unique expression of self;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Rosa City Schools District Board of Trustees proclaims the month of May 2024 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and encourages all District schools to observe this occasion with appropriate instructional activities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of Santa Rosa City Schools on this 24th day of April 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSENT: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

Roxanne McNally, Clerk of the Board

Date