

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 09-2022-23

RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the Indigenous peoples who were the original inhabitants, explorers, and settlers of what is now the United States; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1990, the month of November has been designated as “National American Indian Heritage Month,” and in his 2016 proclamation U.S. President Barack Obama pledged to “maintain the meaningful partnerships we have with tribal nations, and we renew our commitment to our nation-to-nation relationships as we seek to give all our children the future they deserve”; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2021, U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued the first-ever Presidential Proclamation on Indigenous Peoples’ Day, affirming that “our Nation celebrates the invaluable contributions and resilience of Indigenous peoples, recognizes their inherent sovereignty, and commits to honoring the Federal Government’s trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations:” and

WHEREAS, countless Native Americans have demonstrated extraordinary leadership, such as enrolled Laguna Pueblo member Deb Haaland, who in 2019 was one of the first two Native American women to be seated in the United States Congress and in 2021 was appointed to serve as Secretary of the Interior—the first Native American Cabinet secretary in United States history, where she established a new unit in the Bureau of Indian Affairs to address missing and murdered Indigenous women; and

WHEREAS, the state of California is home to approximately 720,000 individuals who identify as Native American, representing the largest statewide population of Native Americans in the United States; is enriched by more than 150 tribal communities, including 109 that are federally recognized; and observes California Native American Day on the fourth Friday in September; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples remain actively engaged in cultural revitalization, resource protection, and self-determination within every region of California; and

WHEREAS, the City of Piedmont sits on the territory of Xučyun, the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo Ohlone, the successors of the historic and sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County.

WHEREAS, National American Indian Heritage Month is celebrated to recognize intertribal cultures and to educate the public about the heritage, history, art, and traditions of the Native American Indian; and

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby honors and recognizes the month of November, 2022 as Native American Heritage Month; and

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education encourages the Piedmont community to learn more about the history and heritage of Native Americans in the Bay Area, the State of California, and the Nation. By such actions we reaffirm our appreciation of and respect for their deeply held values and traditions, nurturing this important part of our culture for generations yet to come.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Piedmont Unified School District Board of Education at a meeting held on October 26, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Cory Smegal, President
Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education

Donald Evans, Ed.D., Secretary
Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education