

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution No. 16-2022-23

Recognizing April as Arab American Heritage Month

WHEREAS, from April 1, 2023, through April 30, 2023, the United States celebrates Arab American Heritage Month;

WHEREAS, diversity is one of America's greatest strengths and Arab Americans are essential to the fabric of our Nation; and,

WHEREAS, when migrating to the United States, Arab Americans came in search of political, economic, and religious freedom, and brought with them resilient family values, strong work ethics, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed, which have strengthened our great democracy; and,

WHEREAS, the State of California has the highest number of residents of "Arab" ancestry in the United States, and the large number of Arab Americans living in California represent a vital and valued part of the population, making significant contributions to academia, business, medicine, law, technology, government, science, and social justice, and making our state a better place; and,

WHEREAS, Arab Americans in California represent many different nationalities including Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian, Iraqi, Jordanian, Palestinian, Moroccan, as well as Arabs from Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for public education, awareness, and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, and addressing the impacts of being Arab American in all aspects of American society;

WHEREAS, Arab American Heritage Month offers the opportunity to learn of the profound impact of Arab Americans throughout history, including Arab American poet Kahlil Gibran, Egyptian-American engineer Mohamed Atalla, and Lebanese-American White House Bureau Chief and Dean of the White House Press Corps, Helen Thomas; and

WHEREAS, former board member Amal Fakhro Smith, was the first Arab American to serve on the Piedmont Unified Board of Education, making a huge impact to the Piedmont schools and community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Piedmont Unified School District Board of Education joins other communities and school districts in California and across the country in celebrating the month of April as Arab American Month, and encourages all schools to commemorate this occasion accordingly with appropriate instructional materials, discussions, presentations and projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this executed Resolution be distributed to all PUSD schools.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Piedmont Unified School District Board of Education at a meeting held on March 22, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Veronica Anderson Thigpen, Board President
Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education

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