

RESOLUTION #20/21-26
IN SUPPORT OF
ASIAN AMERICAN and PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, on March 28, 1979, President Jimmy Carter issued Proclamation 4650 designating the week of May 4, 1979, as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, providing an opportunity for people of the United States to recognize the history, contributions, and achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed a bill passed by Congress to extend the week-long celebration to a month-long celebration. In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was signed into law; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific encompasses the people of the Asian continent, including Asian Indian, Bengali, Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesia, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Malayan, Okinawan, Pakistani, Thai, Vietnamese, and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Easter Island); and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and their contributions to arts, sports, journalism, government, politics, health, medicine, science, technology, and education have been invaluable to our Nation; and

WHEREAS, this month, we not only celebrate their heritage and express our appreciation for those contributions, but reaffirm our commitment to combating the rise of racism and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our schools, our community and in our Nation;

WHEREAS, the Conejo Valley Unified School District observes and honors Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and encourages educators, students, and families to learn about the heritage and achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders through appropriate programs and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Conejo Valley Unified School District recognizes May 2021 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and unequivocally denounce acts of racism, prejudice, discrimination, and bias against members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

In recognition of the need for both a long-term commitment and timely changes, the Board directs District leadership, administrators and faculty to begin by working together and focusing on the following improvements:

SECTION 1. Utilize the District’s Educational Equity Task Force to, among other things, make recommendations to address existing racism, bias, inequities, and systemic barriers that disadvantage BIPOC students and staff in our district;

SECTION 2. Create a district “Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Statement” for Board adoption to serve as a framework for the focus on equity, including racial equity, at every level in the district;

SECTION 3. Implement curriculum changes that are racially accurate, sensitive, and inclusive, and substantively and meaningfully incorporate literature, history, and cultural studies curriculum from BIPOC and anti-racist authors. As it relates to the core literature list, prioritize creating more diversity and targeting funds to acquire texts written by and reflecting the experiences and perspectives of BIPOC for all grade levels.

SECTION 4. Devise and implement mandatory Diversity and Inclusion programming across district schools. Examples include promoting more students of color in leadership positions, dedicating special assemblies each year to addressing student racism and implicit bias and affinity groups.

SECTION 5. Strive to recruit, hire and retain more educators, counselors, staff, and administrators of color, and establish an administrative leadership position dedicated to promoting, providing support to students and families, and ensuring accountability around issues of equity and social justice.

SECTION 6. Implement professional development for all school site staff and faculty on implicit bias, racial equity, inclusive curriculum, and proper responses to experiences of racism by students and staff.

SECTION 7. Review district-wide, equitable standards for disciplinary action and make appropriate changes to end implicit/explicit racial bias, including racial disparities in student searches, detentions, suspensions, expulsions, and schools’ involvement with legal authorities in student conduct issues.

SECTION 8. Review and provide recommended updates to racism and bias reporting policies to ensure such policies provide a safe manner for students and staff to report and requires a response that accounts for the systemic nature of racism and bias.


SECTION 9. Develop and implement a process for direct outreach to BIPOC families to determine needs, including academic and social-emotional, and to enact specific supports in response.

SECTION 10. Review diversity and inclusion programming in the district on an annual basis and provide the public with annual reports on those efforts.

SECTION 11. Collect and analyze data from school sites and provide regular public reports on complaints of racially motivated bullying, harassment, and cyberbullying at each of the district’s schools. Support identified school sites in ensuring compliance with district anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies and responding with timely, appropriate action.



Karen Sylvester, Clerk, Board of Education



Mark W. McLaughlin, Ed.D., Superintendent
and Secretary to the Board