

RESOLUTION #23/24-36
JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
JUNE 19, 2024

WHEREAS, enslaved people in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas were not freed until some 2000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas on June 19, 1865, more than 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been formerly enslaved in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” as inspiration and encouragement for future generations and have observed the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Independence Day for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has designated Juneteenth Independence Day as our country’s second Independence Day in recognition of the emancipation of all enslaved people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and are times for reflection and rejoicing; and

WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by formerly enslaved people and the descendants of formerly enslaved people remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has designated June 19 as “Juneteenth Independence Day” in recognition of the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States and in order to support the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past, to better understand and reckon with the experiences that have shaped the United States, and to recognize that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States; and

WHEREAS, thereafter President Biden proclaimed June 19 as Juneteenth Day of Observance and called upon the people of the United States to acknowledge and celebrate the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of Black Americans and commit together to eradicate systemic racism that still undermines our founding ideals and collective prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the Conejo Valley Unified School District seeks to further solidify and expand its support of the local observance of Juneteenth as an annual celebration and as a continued opportunity to recognize the impact, achievements, and significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Conejo Valley Unified School District designate June 19, 2024, as a local holiday in honor of Juneteenth.

ADOPTED, this 15th day of May 2024.



Bill Gorback, Clerk, Board of Education



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