

## Board Meeting – February 21, 2023

### Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- B. Adoption of Board Resolution 26: to Recognize the Anniversary of Boston Massacre and Death of Crispus Attucks, March 5, 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 26 as part of the regular County Board meeting on February 21, 2023; and encourages educators, librarians and education communities to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities that generate in-depth discussions of the life and legacy of Crispus Attucks, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Henry “Box” Brown and the countless and extraordinary contributions of Black Americans in advocating for social justice and racial equity.

Board Resolution No. 26 is shown on the following page.

#### NEXT STEPS:

- Send out LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.
- Invite school districts to participate in professional development opportunities and

access materials to build content knowledge of the subject and acquire instructional strategies to teach the topic effectively in classrooms.

- Provide support to districts to implement ethnic studies with intentionality of including the history and contributions of the group identified.

## BOARD RESOLUTION

No. 26: 2022-2023

### **Crispus Attucks Day (March 5, 2023)**

**WHEREAS** Crispus Attucks, born in 1723, was an American stevedore of African and Native American descent, widely regarded as the first casualty of the American Revolution; and

**WHEREAS** Attucks was gunned down by a British soldier during the 1770 Boston Massacre, a key event that led to the revolutionary war; and

**WHEREAS** Attucks became a symbol of oppression of Black Americans and an icon of the anti-slavery movement in the mid-19th century; and

**WHEREAS** supporters of the abolition movement lauded him for playing a heroic role in U.S. history and marked his death anniversary as Crispus Attucks Day, using the memory of his sacrifice to mobilize support for efforts to end slavery; and

**WHEREAS** they presented Attucks as the first martyr of the Revolution who died fighting for liberty. The image resonated powerfully in a nation that placed millions of African Americans in bondage despite its stated ideal of freedom; and

**WHEREAS** civil rights icon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. mentioned Attucks in his 1964 book, *Why We Can't Wait*, noting that "the first American to shed blood in the revolution that freed his country from British oppression was a black seaman" and as an example of a man whose contributions to history provided a potent message of moral courage; and

**WHEREAS** several U.S. institutions, including schools nationwide, have been named after Attucks, and in 1998 the U.S. Treasury released a Black Revolutionary War Patriots silver dollar coin featuring Attucks' image; and

**WHEREAS** more than 250 years after his death, he has become a rallying figure for a nation battling racism, as have a number of Black abolitionists including Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Henry “Box” Brown and many others; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education proclaims March 5, 2023 as Crispus Attucks Day and encourages educators, librarians and education communities to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities that generate in-depth discussions of the life and legacy of Crispus Attucks, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Henry “Box” Brown and the countless and extraordinary contributions of Black Americans in advocating for social justice and racial equity.

**ADOPTED** this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2023, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.  
Superintendent



James Cross  
Board President