

Board Meeting – February 21, 2023

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

H. Adoption of Board Resolution 32: to Recognize National Women’s History Month, March 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 32 as part of the regular County Board meeting on February 21, 2023; and further recommends that the Board recognize and support Women’s History Month in March by encouraging public officials, educators, librarians and school communities to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities; and that the County Board support school districts in their effort to commemorate Women’s History Month by providing instructional resources, relevant research, resources and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of women and girls.

Board Resolution No. 32 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.
- Amplify women leaders during National Women's History Month through LACOE's various communication channels like an online video series, LACOE's *Let Me Add to That* podcast, the LACOE social media accounts as well as in in-person events such as the annual Women's Conference.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 32: 2022-2023

Women's History Month (March 2022)

WHEREAS American women have struggled throughout our history to gain rights not simply for themselves but for many other under-represented and disenfranchised groups in America; and

WHEREAS women's contributions and accomplishments have largely been overlooked and consequently omitted from mainstream culture; and

WHEREAS in spite of these oversights, many of which continue to exist today, women have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific and technological advancements of the United States; and

WHEREAS President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week. In his message he stated:

“From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who build America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well;” and

WHEREAS Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as “Women's History Week;” and

WHEREAS President Ronald Reagan stated in Presidential Proclamation 4903 designating the week beginning on March 7, 1982, as Women's History Week:

“American women of every race, creed and ethnic background helped found and build our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways... As leaders in public affairs, American women not only worked to secure their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity but also were principal advocates in the abolitionist, temperance, mental health reform, industrial labor and social reform movements, as well as the modern civil rights movement;” and

WHEREAS in 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as “Women's History Month;” and

WHEREAS between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women’s History Month; and

WHEREAS presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations since 1995, designating the month of March as “Women’s History Month” to honor and celebrate the struggles and achievements of American women throughout the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS LACOE is committed to valuing the experiences and accomplishments of all individuals and believes deeply that the contributions of women in history and contemporary society are central to the character of who we are, to the health of our democracy and to the well-being of our world; and


WHEREAS this month serves as a reminder to highlight the critical role of women in the health care response to the COVID-19 crisis. Women make up almost 70 percent of the health care workforce worldwide, exposing them to a greater risk of infection. Women also make up a large share of educators who have served as frontliners; and


WHEREAS at the same time, women are shouldering much of the burden at home, given school and childcare facility closures and longstanding gender inequalities in unpaid work. Women also face high risks of job and income loss and face increased risks of violence, exploitation, abuse or harassment during times of crisis and quarantine; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize and support Women’s History Month in March by encouraging public officials, educators, librarians and school communities to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby support school districts in their effort to commemorate Women’s History Month by providing instructional resources, relevant research, resources and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of women and girls.

ADOPTED this 21st 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