

April 18, 2023

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – April 18, 2023

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

F. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 46 to Recognize Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, May 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 46 as part of the regular County Board meeting on April 18, 2023; and further proclaims May 2023 as Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month and call upon communities to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to celebrate and learn about AANHPI history, people and cultures; and to support efforts to combat hate toward AANHPIs by providing instructional resources, relevant research, resources and promising practices to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of AANHPI students.

Resolution No. 46 is attached.

Next Steps:

- Launch an Asian American, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) Equity and Social Justice Action team that will collaborate with the AANHPI Heritage group to elevate the voices and needs of AANHPI staff at the Los Angeles County Office of Education to create a more inclusive work environment.
- Invite school districts to participate in the Ethnic Studies Symposium Series: Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies at the Japanese American National Museum on May 11th, 2023.
- Provide support to districts to implement ethnic studies while intentionally highlighting the contribution of the Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders community.
- Host a virtual event where LACOE staff are invited to learn about Thai culture and honor Asian American, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander students with a scholarship.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 46: 2022-23

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) Heritage Month

- WHEREAS Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) make our county, state and nation more vibrant through diversity of cultures, languages and traditions; and
- WHEREAS this diversity of contributions has enriched American culture and society; and
- WHEREAS AANHPIs are deeply rooted in U.S. history, helping build and unite our nation – from laying railroad tracks, tilling fields and starting businesses, to caring for our loved ones and honorably serving our nation in uniform; and
- WHEREAS this May, during AANHPI Heritage Month, we recognize the history and achievements of AANHPIs – and in the midst of a difficult year of pain and fear, we also reflect on the tradition of leadership, resilience and courage shown by AANHPI communities, and recommit to the struggle for AANHPI equity; and
- WHEREAS we also celebrate and honor the invaluable contributions the AANHPI communities have made to our culture and the arts, law, science and technology, sports and public service — including the courageous AANHPIs who have served on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic as health care providers, first responders, teachers and other essential workers; and
- WHEREAS in spite of the strength shown and successes achieved, the American dream remains out of reach for far too many AANHPI families; AANHPI communities face systemic barriers to economic justice, health equity, educational attainment and personal safety; and
- WHEREAS we recognize the heightened fear felt by many Asian American communities in the wake of increasing rates of anti-Asian harassment and violence during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- WHEREAS Asian American residents of Los Angeles County and elsewhere continue to report disturbing incidents of hate against them and their families, including the bullying of their children; and
- WHEREAS we need to show solidarity with AANHPI communities in condemning, denouncing and preventing these acts of hate and look for opportunities to heal together and fight against the racism and xenophobia that still exists in this country; and
- WHEREAS Present-day inequities faced by AANHPI communities are rooted in our nation’s history of exclusion, discrimination, racism and xenophobia against Asian Americans; AANHPIs have endured a long history of injustice —

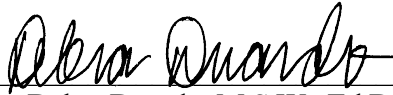
including the Page Act of 1875, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the incarceration of Japanese American citizens during World War II, the murder of Vincent Chin, the mass shooting of Southeast Asian refugee children in 1989, and the targeting of South Asian Americans, especially those who are Muslim, Hindu or Sikh, after the national tragedy of 9/11; and

WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Office of Education’s support for equity, inclusion and belonging for people of all races, national origins and ethnicities is critical to guaranteeing the safety and security of all people; and


WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the schools and school districts within Los Angeles County should combat racism, xenophobia and intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and work to ensure that all members of AAPI communities— no matter their background, the language they speak or their religious beliefs — are treated with dignity and equity; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools hereby proclaim May 2023 as Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month and call upon communities to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to celebrate and learn about AANHPI history, people and cultures; and to support efforts to combat hate toward AANHPIs by providing instructional resources, relevant research, resources and promising practices to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of AANHPI students.

ADOPTED this 18th day of April, 2023, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



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



James Cross
Board President