

March 19, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – March 19, 2024

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

C. Adoption of Board Resolution 42: Recognizing Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day on April 24, 2024

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 42 as part of the regular County Board meeting on March 19, 2024; and further recommends that the Board recognizes April 24 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day and encourages education communities to observe this day with appropriate curriculum, programs and activities that generate in-depth discussions of the Armenian Genocide, including the role of the United States in humanitarian relief efforts, and the relevance of the Armenian Genocide to modern-day crimes against humanity.

Board Resolution No. 42 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 month and day with appropriate programs and activities that include:
  - *Difficult Decisions in Dangerous Times: Hope and Agency during the Armenian Genocide* - This archived webinar, posted on the LACOE History-Social Science webpage, led by Sara Cohan, Education Director of The Genocide Education Project and Dr. Dikran Kaligian at Worcester State University, will help you teach about the Armenian Genocide while providing students examples of personal choices of common citizens they can relate to in their own lives. Includes links to videos, survivor testimony, background information and lesson plans for classroom use.
  - *The Genocide Education Project*: Resources, teaching guides, websites, documents and maps, survivor accounts and more on the Genocide Education website.

## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

NO. 42: 2023-24

### **Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day April 24, 2024**

**WHEREAS,** our state has a proud history of recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide, the killing of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; and Americans rallied to provide life-saving aid to thousands of the survivors; and

**WHEREAS,** Armenian men, women and children were slaughtered or marched to their deaths in an effort to annihilate the Armenian people in the first modern-era genocide, while thousands of kidnapped children and young women were forced to change their Armenian names to Turkish names and convert to Islam, and hundreds of thousands more were subjected to many civil and human rights violations during the period of the modern Republic of Turkey from 1924 through 1937; and

**WHEREAS,** these crimes against humanity also had the consequence of permanently removing all traces of the Armenians and other targeted people from their historic homelands, and enriching the perpetrators with the lands and community and personal properties of the victims of these crimes, including the usurpation of several thousand churches, as well as schools, hospitals and other institutions; and

**WHEREAS,** successive governments of the Republic of Turkey have denied the occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the Ottoman and Young Turk rulers for a century and continue to do so despite some Turkish government officials' earlier admissions and the overwhelming proof of genocidal intent; and

**WHEREAS,** in response to the Genocide, the Near East Relief organization, the first congressionally sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to rescue Armenian and other survivors of the genocide, was founded and provided unprecedented relief, delivering more than \$117 million of humanitarian assistance between 1915 and 1930, and saving approximately one million refugees, including 130,000 orphans of the Armenian Genocide; and

**WHEREAS,** the Governor of California, in accordance with Assembly Concurrent Resolution 51, proclaimed April 24 of each year as a State Day of Remembrance in recognition of the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; and

**WHEREAS,** the concern for human rights is a major element in the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten through Grade Twelve; and

**WHEREAS,** California Education Code 51226.3 calls for the teaching of the Armenian Genocide in grades 7-12; the Los Angeles County Office of Education, in collaboration with The Genocide Education Project, has conducted a number of in- person and virtual professional development trainings for teachers across Southern California; and

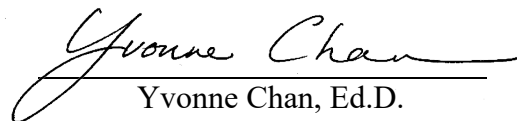
**WHEREAS,** Los Angeles County has a significant Armenian student population, many of whom have family members who experienced first-hand the horror of the Armenian Genocide and the ongoing denial of this crime against humanity; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby recognizes April 24, 2024 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day and encourages education communities to observe this day with appropriate curriculum, programs and activities that generate in-depth discussions of the Armenian Genocide, including the role of the United States in humanitarian relief efforts, and the relevance of the Armenian Genocide to modern-day crimes against humanity.

**ADOPTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024 by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



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



Yvonne Chan, Ed.D.  
Board President