Joint Resolution No. 20-20  
San Mateo County Board of Education  
and  
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools  
State of California

In Recognition of April 2020 as Autism Awareness Month

Whereas, the Center for Disease Control estimates that 1 in 59 children in the United States live with ASD, a neurobiological disorder that hinders a person’s ability to communicate and develop social relationships; and

Whereas, every April, Autism Speaks celebrates World Autism Month, beginning with United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, to increase understanding and acceptance and to foster worldwide support for those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); and

Whereas, The Autism Society recognizes that the prevalence of Autism in the United States has risen from 1 in 125 children in 2010 to 1 in 59 in 2020; and

Whereas, ASD affects people from all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, but due to late diagnosis and intervention, as well as the cost and inaccessibility of care, disproportionately affects historically underserved and economically disadvantaged communities; and

Whereas, nearly two-thirds of children with ASD between the ages of 6 and 15 have experienced bullying by their peers; and

Whereas, Autism Speaks has designated 2020 as the “Year of Kindess” and is inviting people around the globe to paraticipate in a Kindness Campaign to achieve one million acts of kindness, big and small, in order to create a kinder, more inclusive world for people with Autism; and

Whereas, the global pandemic caused by community spread of COVID-19 has created additional pressures and challenges on children with ASD and their families, as students with ASD and other learning disabilities often need familiar routines to establish safety and security; and

Whereas, the students and families of San Mateo County, while sheltered-in-place, can enhance autism awareness by participating in the Autism Speaks “Year of Kindness” campaign by completing an act of kindess virtually or in their homes and entering the information at autismspeaks.org/kindness; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved the San Mateo County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby observe April 2020 as Autism Awareness Month to increase the understanding, acceptance, and number of programs for people with ASD and the family members, educators, and other professionals who teach and care for them.

SAN MATEO COUNTY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
SAN MATEO COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Passed and Adopted on this  
First Day of April 2020  
President