Joint Resolution No. 20-23
San Mateo County Board of Education
and
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools
State of California

In Recognition of May 2020 as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

Whereas, in 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California and Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii introduced congressional resolutions that both the House and the Senate ultimately passed proclaiming the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week, and in 1992, Congress permanently designated May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month; and

Whereas, Asians make up about 60% of our planet’s human population with more than 4.5 billion people in 54 countries who speak more than 2,000 languages; and

Whereas, of the 6.2 million K-12 students who attend California public schools, 9% are Asian, 2.5% are Filipino, and 0.5% are Pacific Islander, and within these groups, the student population is diverse and represents many cultural backgrounds; and

Whereas, the percentage of students who identify as Asian-Pacific Islander in San Mateo County is higher than that of the State, with 15.7% of San Mateo’s 94,234 students identifying as Asian, 8.1% identifying as Filipino, and 1.8% identifying as Pacific Islander; and

Whereas, San Mateo County is home to one of the largest Pacific Islander communities in the United States, and according to the 2010 Census, more than 15,000 Pacific Islanders reside in San Mateo County; and

Whereas, many Asian-Pacific Americans have experienced the injustices of exclusionary acts, denial of citizenship and land ownership, as well as internment in relocation camps; and

Whereas, we acknowledge and celebrate these Americans for their contributions to government, industry, commerce, agriculture, science, literature, and the arts; and

Whereas, schools have a responsibility to nurture cultural sensitivity and ensure that Asian, Filipino, and Pacific Islander students can see themselves represented in their curriculum and have opportunities to celebrate their lived experiences within their communities; and

Whereas, to decrease bullying and prevent incidents of anti-Asian discrimination, educators and families can play a critical role in helping young people understand the history and context for the anti-Asian racism that has flared up due to COVID-19;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools designate May 2020 as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and encourage all educational sites to recognize the contributions of Asian-Pacific Americans.

Be It Further Resolved that the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools strongly encourage all members of our community to join in this observance and acknowledge the dedication and hard work of these individuals, especially in this time of great community disruption due to COVID-19.
SAN MATEO COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Passed and Adopted on this
Fifteenth Day of April 2020

SAN MATEO COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

President

[Signatures]