Joint Resolution No. 20-29
San Mateo County Board of Education
and
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools
State of California

Condemning Anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate Speech and Behavior and Calling for Unity

Whereas, the world is currently experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic, which respects no boundaries and has already claimed the lives of more than 225,000 people worldwide; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors for COVID-19 because such characterizations can fuel ethnic and racial discrimination; and

Whereas, according to United States Census data government estimates, 32.5% of San Mateo County’s 766,570 residents are of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage, compared with 15.8% for all of California; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 health crisis has prompted disturbing, anti-Asian and Pacific Islander hate speech and behavior in San Mateo County and in other parts of the state and country; and

Whereas, some residents of Asian American and Pacific Islander descent are experiencing shunning, verbal harassment, workplace discrimination, and even physical assault; and

Whereas, on April 10, 2020, the San Mateo County Asian Pacific Islanders Caucus and peninsula leaders issued a statement denouncing racism and xenophobia, and on April 21, 2020, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution denouncing xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment due to fears of the COVID-19 pandemic and affirming the County of San Mateo’s commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian-American communities; and

Whereas, racism and hate only serve to pull apart our community at a time when unity is most needed; and

Whereas, racist language and behavior can have a profound and lasting impact on children and adds to the stress they are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis; and

Whereas, we all have the opportunity to stand up against racism and hate and create a caring, compassionate, and supportive community; and

Whereas, the San Mateo County Office of Education has embarked on a One Community campaign to promote respect, compassion, kindness, and other key values of a successful community through social media, articles, website banners, and other measures;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools condemn anti-Asian and Pacific Islander hate speech and behavior and urge all San Mateo County residents to unite against hate, racism, and xenophobia, especially during these challenging times where unity and compassion are most needed.

SAN MATEO COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Passed and Adopted on this
Sixth Day of May 2020

SAN MATEO COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

President