

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING LUNAR NEW YEAR**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2434-1**

**WHEREAS**, during January and February, countries worldwide celebrate and honor the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year is celebrated in China, Vietnam, Korea, Indonesia, and many other Asian countries and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lunar New Year is an important holiday marking the year's first new moon. Each year is associated with one of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac. This year is celebrated as the Year of the Dragon, symbolizing good luck, health, and strength; and

**WHEREAS**, Lunar New Year is a time to gather with family, recognize traditions, honor ancestors, celebrate the past year, and invite good luck and prosperity for the new year; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been celebrated in California since 1858 when early Chinese settlers shared their vibrant culture with the local community. Various communities and organizations host festivals to share and highlight an important celebration in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in Santa Clara County, people who identify as Asian are part of the largest racial or ethnic group for the first time, representing 38.9% of the county's 2020 population of nearly 2 million. According to data from the California Department of Education, in the 2022-2023 school year, over 72,000 students identify as being of Asian descent; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) continues to support the Asian American and Pacific Islander community within the organization through programs such as the Asian American and Pacific Islander Educators Network (AAPIEN) and Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP), a national nonprofit organization that cultivates a pipeline of Asian American and Pacific Islander leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, LEAP leaders and members of the AAPIEN participate in professional development, which is facilitated by SCCOE staff, where they are encouraged to aim for leadership roles and hone and strengthen leadership skills. Participation in these programs encourages educators from SCCOE and other educational institutions to share and celebrate their lived experiences and culture; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools recognize and honor the 2024 Lunar New Year from February 10 to February 24 as well as the tremendous contributions made by those of Asian descent; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools encourage schools in Santa Clara County to honor and celebrate the Lunar New Year.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on February 7, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

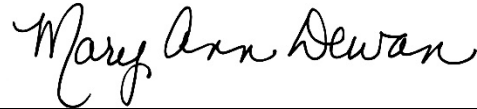
ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Maimona Afzal Berta, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools