

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2431-4**

WHEREAS, Friday, January 13, 2024 is designated as Korean American Day. Korean American Day commemorates the history of Korean immigration to the United States, beginning on January 13, 1903; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 Korean children and adults crossed the Pacific Ocean to Hawaii aboard the S.S. Gaelic. Approximately 1,000 Korean immigrants arrived on the United States mainland between 1904 to 1907 from Hawaii through the city of San Francisco, where the first Korean American political organizations and Korean language publications were established; and

WHEREAS, Korean American Day honors the arrival of Korean immigrants and the contributions of Korean Americans to our nation, state, and region through language, food, and more. Korean Americans have introduced K-Pop, K-Drama, and more, integrating them into American culture; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, former President George W. Bush proclaimed the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants. Two years later, the United States House and Senate passed resolutions supporting Korean American Day. California Assembly Members Steven Choi and Sharon Quirk-Silva introduced ACR-111, a resolution proclaiming January 13, 2022, as Korean American Day. The members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus commemorate the day each year; and

WHEREAS, Korean Americans have laid deep roots in our community as educators, veterans, leaders, entrepreneurs, healthcare workers, actors, athletes, and more, paving the way for younger Korean Americans to support and grow their vibrant culture; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2020 census, in 2019, 2.5% of all military veterans were of Asian American descent and over 550,000 employers were of Asian descent; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1.9 million individuals identified as being of Korean heritage, according to the 2020 census; 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; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the California Department of Education, in the 2022-2023 school year, over 72,254 youth 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. 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 January 13, 2024, as Korean American Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools urge school districts in Santa Clara County to observe Korean American Day by recognizing the contributions of Korean Americans.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on January 10, 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



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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