

RESOLUTION NO.#14-21/22
RECOGNIZING THE SECOND MONDAY OF OCTOBER AS
NATIVE/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY, THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS NATIVE
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND OPENING ARUSD BOARD MEETINGS WITH A
LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN PERPETUITY

WHEREAS, Indigenous People, in particular the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, have had and continue to have distinct, rich cultures binding them to the Earth and all of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the second Monday of October is nationally celebrated as Indigenous Peoples' Day and the month of November is Native American Heritage Month and the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District is honored to acknowledge and celebrate local and national American Indians; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees values the many contributions made to our community through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts and the deep cultural contributions that has substantially shaped our District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has a responsibility to oppose the systemic racism toward Indigenous peoples in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education and social inequities and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees promotes closing the equity gap for Indigenous Peoples through policies and practices that reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples and all other segments of our District; and

WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous Peoples Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, over 70 percent of American Indian and Alaskan Native people now live in urban areas with California having the largest populations in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Muwekma Ohlone, Amah Mutsun, Esselen, and Taymen tribes of our region have suffered severe injustice and dispossession; and

WHEREAS, the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District joins the Santa Clara County Office of Education and the City of San Jose in honoring and supporting the first people of the region as efforts are made to revive their culture, language, and history; and

WHEREAS, such organizations as The Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) with its five Santa Clara County chapters are

committed to the support and advancement of Native Americans in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and careers, and the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley has offered comprehensive health care and wellness services since 1977; and

WHEREAS, the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District is committed to enhancing equity and diversity, and remains dedicated to providing schools with resources and supports to advance ethnic studies courses and curriculum; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District recognizes the importance of teaching Native Studies to all students and supports the District's Ethnic Studies Steering Committee's ongoing work in making that a reality for all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District does hereby acknowledge that the District schools and facilities sit on the traditional lands of the Muwekma Ohlone people, and the Board of Trustees further acknowledges with respect and reverence the Muwekma Ohlone People Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area for their stewardship of these lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopts this resolution to recognize both Indigenous Peoples' Day in October, November as Native American Heritage Month and to begin each board meeting with a land acknowledgement stating "We take a moment to acknowledge and pay respects to the First Nations people of the land upon which Alum Rock Union Elementary School District is established, the ancestral homelands of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area " as an opportunity to reflect upon and teach about the ongoing struggles of the Indigenous Peoples of this land, to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region (namely, the Muwekma Ohlone peoples), and to stand in community and solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District of Santa Clara County, State of California, this 26th day of October 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is duly introduced, passed, and adopted at the time and place and by the vote as noted above.

Clerk, Board of Trustees