

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Recognizing and Honoring Black History Month

Whereas, in 1776, the American Founding Fathers and people envisioned a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that *“all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness . . .”*;

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of America as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of racism, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas, the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas, since 1926, and the creation of Negro History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the accomplishments of persons of African descent have been recognized each February; and

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas, the month of February is observed nationally as Black History Month to share the accomplishments black Americans have made and continue to offer to this nation; and

Whereas, Black History Month acknowledges and honors numerous past and present educators, scientists, activists, pioneers, leaders, artists, inventors, entrepreneurs, and elders with special ceremonies and activities; and

Now, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED by the Orange County Board of Education, that we commemorate and honor the achievements of black Americans and their role in the development and history of our great nation, and we join in recognizing the annual celebration of Black History Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Orange County Board of Education at a meeting held on January 7, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, Mari Barke, President to the Board of Education of Orange County, California hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 7th day of January 2026.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 7th day of January 2026.

Mari Barke

Mari Barke, President
Orange County Board of Education

