

MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 20-21-14

Recognizing

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Board of Education recognizes the month of October as California School Bus Safety Awareness Month to honor school bus drivers throughout Monterey County and recognize the important role they play in the educational day of students and the support they provide to our schools and school districts; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our educational community in profound ways with schools being closed and students shifting to distance learning, and our school bus drivers are now preparing for schools to reopen by developing new strategies to ensure the well-being of students and personnel by cleaning buses and arranging seating and equipment for future use: and

WHEREAS, our public schools and transportation departments operate within a lean budget, and during these unpredictable conditions, school bus drivers are creating a culture of innovation within their work and are collaboratively developing, with a sense of urgency, new techniques to address social distancing and the diverse needs of all students; and

WHEREAS, transportation professionals take great pride in their jobs by taking children to and from school safely, and during the down-time of distance learning they have stepped up to assist with delivery of meals, distribution of technology devices, delivering lesson plans and materials to children, stationing of buses to provide WiFi hotspots, distributing personal protective equipment to district and schools, and generally supporting their organizations in numerous other ways to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic challenges that have been presented to our educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, with courtesy and professionalism, school bus drivers understand the great responsibility they have for other people's children in maintaining safety and order on the bus and at bus stops and are prepared to instruct students and their family members on new procedures and policies related to their health and well-being and the protection of their teachers and our community; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Board of Education takes great pride in recognizing the Monterey County Office of Education Transportation Department team who safeguard the transportation of our most fragile students who may require use of specialized equipment such as wheelchairs, car seats and supportive vests; and

WHEREAS, emphasizing another excellent opportunity for parents, students, teachers, motorists, and the community to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety is National School Bus Safety Week, observed from October 19-23, 2020, which highlights the theme: Red Lights Mean STOP!:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution Number 20-21-14 to recognize the month of October as California School Bus Safety Awareness Month and to recognize all of our school bus drivers for their excellent service to the students and school personnel of Monterey County.

> Passed and Adopted on the Twenty-Third Day of September 2020

Sànchez, Member

Janet Wohlgemuth, Member

Dr. Deneen Guss, Monterey County

Superintendent of Schools