



TIGARD-TUALATIN SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCLAMATION:

A Proclamation of the Tigard-Tualatin School Board of Directors to honor the month-long celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

WHEREAS, the celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage in the United States originated in 1978 and was voted by Congress into a month-long event in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month seeks to honor and recognize the contributions of residents from Asia, India, and the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843; and

WHEREAS, to also recognize that the majority of the workers who contributed to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed on May 10, 1869, were Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians, Chinese, and Japanese were the first to migrate to the Pacific Northwest and were known for handling canoes and transporting goods, construction, and railroad expansion; and

WHEREAS, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Mariannas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island); and

WHEREAS, during Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, we acknowledge Asians and Pacific Islanders have lived and worked in Oregon for more than 200 years, contributing to Oregon's and the United State's economy, culture, education, politics, arts, literature, science, and technological developments despite institutional and systemic injustices designed to prevent and limit these achievements and contribution; and

WHEREAS, during AAPI Heritage Month we acknowledge the additional determination, hard work, and perseverance, AAPI must put forth to be heard and seen and that these additional efforts are a result of inequitable institutional and systemic injustices; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions and leadership, the role of AAPI in U.S. history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching, and study of American history; and

WHEREAS, racially motivated discrimination and harassment is at a high with a national and local spike in hate crimes against the AAPI community, especially targeting its Muslim, South Asian, and Southeast Asian members; and

WHEREAS, Asians and Pacific Islanders are among the fastest growing communities in Oregon. This migration has been voluntary and forced due to war and environmental degradation in their native countries; and

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders' issues, such as civil rights abuses, harmful stereotyping, and bullying must be combated in the forms of education and awareness; and

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have added to the strength and diversity of our Tigard-Tualatin community and beyond; and

Whereas Tigard-Tualatin students have protections in Board policy and affinity spaces that welcome and encourage their contributions; and

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders join all community members in the desire to see a peaceful and inclusive society, where every individual has equitable opportunities and feels safe; and

Whereas May is celebrated as National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month;

Therefore, let it be known that the Tigard-Tualatin School Board hereby proclaims

May 2023

NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH


and encourage all staff, students, and community members to join in this observance.

DATED this 8th day of May, 2023.



Tristan Irvin, Chair

ATTEST:


Dr. Sue Rieke-Smith, Superintendent