PROCLAMATION
Dolores Huerta Day
April 10

WHEREAS, activist and labor leader Dolores Huerta has worked her entire life to improve social and economic conditions for farmworkers, is a leader in the fight against discrimination, and is a defender of civil rights, equal rights, and dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta found her calling as an organizer while serving in the leadership of the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization (CSO) and founded the Agricultural Workers Association. She set up voter registration drives and pressed local governments for barrio improvements; and

WHEREAS, during this time, Dolores Huerta met César Chávez, a fellow CSO official, who had become its director; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Dolores Huerta and César Chávez lobbied to have the CSO expand its efforts to help farmworkers, but the organization was only focused on urban issues; and

WHEREAS, as a result, César Chávez and Dolores Huerta resigned from the CSO and cofounded the National Farm Workers Association. Dolores Huerta's organizing skills were essential to the growth of the association; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta overcame the many challenges she faced as a woman. She remained the most talented negotiator securing services for farmworkers in California in 1963 in the form of Aid to Families with Dependent Children and disability insurance, an unparalleled feat of the times; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee was an integral part of the farmworkers' original organizing and was formed by Filipino workers. The Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee was led by Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz, Pete Velasco, and Andy Imutan, all of whom were instrumental to the farm labor movement; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta advocated for the entire family's participation in the movement because of the involvement of men, women, and children together in the fields picking, thinning, and hoeing. Thus, the practice of nonviolence was not only a philosophy but a very necessary approach in providing for the safety of all. Nonetheless, her life and the safety of those around her were in jeopardy on countless occasions; and

WHEREAS, following a lengthy recovery, Dolores Huerta took a leave of absence from the union to focus on women's rights, traveling the country for two years on behalf of the Feminist Majority, encouraging Latinas to run for office. The campaign resulted in a significant increase in the number of women representatives at the local, state, and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, the most widely-known phrase **"Sí se puede"** was a phrase first used by Dolores Huerta in the farmworker movement; and

WHEREAS, at age 88, Dolores Huerta continues to work tirelessly, developing leaders and advocating for the working poor, women, and children. As founder and president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, she travels across the country advocating in campaigns and legislation that support equality and defend civil rights. She continues to be a voice for social justice and public policy; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta has been honored for her work as a fierce advocate for farmworkers, immigrants, the working poor, and women; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments and contributions of Dolores Huerta should be properly memorialized within the history and culture of the United States. Dolores Huerta deserves proper recognition for her numerous sacrifices in the name of justice and the amelioration of severely inadequate working conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Alameda Board of Education and Alameda Unified School District recognize April 10th each year as Dolores Huerta Day by remembering her life, recognizing her accomplishments, and familiarizing its students with the contributions she made to this state.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following votes this 28th day of March 2023.

AYES:_____ MEMBERS:_____

NOES:_____ MEMBERS:_____

ABSENT:_____ MEMBERS:_____

_____

Heather Little, President
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California

ATTEST:
By: _____

Pasquale Scuderi, Secretary
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California