Proclamation
San Mateo Union High School District
Recognizing February 1 - February 28, 2023
National Black History Month

WHEREAS, each year during the month of February the citizens of the United States celebrate Black History Month and the actions, words, and achievements of so many Black Americans who have contributed to the success and prosperity of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans have enriched our society through their commitment to promoting fairness, equality, and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, August 2019 marked 400 years since the first arrival of Africans to present-day America, and the United States Congress established the 400 Years of African American History Commission to commemorate the historic heritage and active contributions that Americans of African descent have made to help shape the cultural, academic, social, economic, and moral attributes of this nation; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the African slave trade that solidified the institution of white supremacy in this nation, Africans and African Americans have nonetheless continued to persevere and move forward in society, fighting for their freedom and also for the freedom of all Americans over time; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the first African American President of the United States was elected; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, President Barack H. Obama was elected to serve a second term; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, California historically elected the most African Americans to serve in the Legislature, totaling 12 members; and

WHEREAS, 2018 marked the highest number of African American members serving in the United States Congress, totaling 55 members; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Kamala D. Harris was the first female and first African American and first Asian American woman elected as Vice President of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Black history is American history, and understanding and appreciating the experiences of Black individuals is crucial to understanding the full story of our country; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County is fortunate enough to be located near hubs of Black innovation and Black history, like Oakland and San Francisco, of which we strive to learn from; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month commemorates the many different achievements of African Americans, whether that be in academia, business, fine arts, political action, and science; and

WHEREAS, these achievements should not be recognized without considering the many sacrifices of Black individuals, who continue to sacrifice, because we do not live in a post-racism society and oppressive institutions still exist as a result of the past colonization, exploitation, destruction, and pain of Black individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Black students who enrich our schools and communities share a unique experience in our classrooms, can feel estranged, targeted, and othered among their peers as a result of being only 1.93% of the total student population; and

WHEREAS, Black educators contribute a valuable and unique perspective to the classroom and serve as role models and mentors for our Black students, who may not see their identity reflected in their environments or curriculum; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate and are inspired by the strength and perseverance of Black students as they strive to reach higher levels of education, despite facing economically and socially oppressive systems; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) seeks to support and empower students of all races and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS SMUHSD's equity vision states: All students will learn in a safe, inclusive and equitable environment that validates, respects and honors their unique backgrounds, interests and identities; and

WHEREAS SMUHSD's equity mission states: We will continually identify, disrupt and eliminate institutional biases and barriers to ensure that all students have the skills and knowledge to thrive physically, emotionally and academically.

WHEREAS the SMUHSD Board of Trustees approved Racial Equity Policy BP 0415 which states: The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that policies and practices produce equitable outcomes for students who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). The district's mission, vision, and goals recognize that educational excellence for all students requires a commitment to racial equity.

WHEREAS, the District recognizes it can and should continue to make progress on the SMUHSD Board of Trustees approved Racial Equity Administrative Regulations which calls for: "Adopting curriculum and instructional materials that include diverse voices and perspectives"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High School District that the District takes great pleasure in recognizing February 2023 as Black History Month, urges all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments and persistence of African Americans during Black History Month, and encourages the staff and students of SMUHSD to recognize not only the many different talents of African Americans but also the

great achievements, contributions, and sacrifices they have made to help create equity and equality for all. PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High School District on the 26th day of January, 2023.