

**TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #213  
OF MARICOPA COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION RE:  
RECOGNIZING WEEK OF JUNE 19 AS JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE**

Whereas the Civil War, which raged for four years between April 1861 and April 1865, officially ended with the surrender of General Lee to General Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865; and

Whereas even after this official end of the War, many parts of the country remained at war while news traveled across the country; and

Whereas on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln, Union General Gordon Granger proclaimed the authority of the United States over Texas in the name of then President Andrew Johnson; and

Whereas in so proclaiming this authority, General Granger declared all acts of the Confederacy null and void and announced slaves were henceforth set free; and

Whereas not caring so much as to which day freedom had come as to the fact it had come, the freed men and women referred to this day as "Juneteenth," which provides the historical reference for Juneteenth National Freedom Day, also known as "Emancipation Day," "Emancipation Celebration," "Freedom Day," "Jun-Jun," "Juneteenth Independence Day," and "Juneteenth"; and

Whereas Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates the June 19, 1865, announcement of the abolition of slavery in the State of Texas, and in general the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans throughout the former Confederacy; and

Whereas during the years immediately following their emancipation, the freed men and women established a tradition of picnics, music, and thanksgiving and used the occasion to reflect upon the profound meaning of their freedom – the freedom to choose a life direction, manner of earning a livelihood, and creating a community in which a free people might live with dignity; and

Whereas Americans of all ethnic backgrounds, creeds, cultures, religions, and countries-of-origin share in a common love of and respect for "freedom," as well as a determination to protect their right to freedom through democratic institutions, by which the "tenets-of-freedom" are guaranteed and protected; and

Whereas on February 25, 2021, the United States Senate introduced S. 475, the "Juneteenth National Independence Day Act," which designates Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday; and

Whereas in June 2021, Juneteenth National Independence Day Act passed in the United States Senate unanimously, and passed in the United States House of Representatives by a 415-14 vote, and subsequently signed into law by President Biden on June 17, 2021; and

Whereas the Tempe Union High School District No. 213 Governing Board values and honors the National and State of Arizona Juneteenth ideals and commemoration of America's 2nd Independence Day Observance, the "19th of June," as one which completes the cycle of America's

18<sup>th</sup> Century Independence Movement with the “4th of July,” 1776 Declaration of Independence, and to advance this country’s sincere dialogue of the realization of what Juneteenth historically means to all Americans, promoting racial healing, reconciliation, and justice;

Whereas the Tempe Union High School District No. 213 Governing Board understands the importance of recognizing the impact, achievements, and contributions from Black students, staff, teachers, administrators, and community members;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the week of June 19 is Juneteenth Holiday Observance. All students, staff, and community members are encouraged to experience the Juneteenth Holiday Observance activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all students, staff, and community members are encouraged to celebrate Juneteenth by recognizing Tempe Union students and staff, supporting local Black artists, supporting Black-owned businesses or organizations, sharing local Juneteenth celebrations, and challenging each other to learn more about Juneteenth.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the Tempe Union High School District No. 213 of Maricopa County this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 213

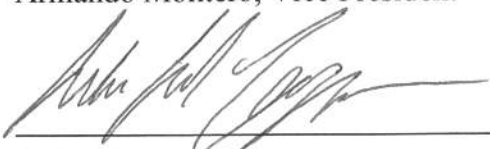
By:



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Brian Garcia, President



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Armando Montero, Vice President



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Andres Barraza, Member



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Berdetta Hodge, Member



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Sarah James, Member