

Joint Resolution No. 24-54
San Mateo County Board of Education
and
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools
State of California

Recognizing November 2024 as National Native American Heritage Month

Whereas, long before Europeans settled in North America, the ancestors of Native Americans were the original, indigenous inhabitants, explorers, and settlers of the lands that have since become the United States; and

Whereas, it is impossible to fully understand the history of California without understanding the history of the indigenous people who have lived within the current boundaries of the state for thousands of years; and

Whereas, California is home to more people of Native American heritage than any other state in the country; and

Whereas, there are more than 100 federally recognized Indian tribes in California and several additional tribes are petitioning for federal recognition through the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

Whereas, the San Francisco Bay Area continues to have the second largest concentration of Indigenous and Alaska Natives in the state – second only to the Los Angeles area; and

Whereas, the Ohlone, a band of distinct groups of indigenous people who spoke similar languages, thrived in the land now known as San Mateo County and other parts of the San Francisco Bay Area; and

Whereas, the Ramaytush are part of the larger group of the Ohlone/Costanoan peoples who lived in San Mateo County in ten small tribal groups and who, prior to the arrival of the Spanish in 1769, numbered approximately 1,500 persons, and

Whereas, due to devastating policies and practices of European explorers and missionaries, settlers, and various levels of government, the Ohlone lost most of their population and land; and

Whereas, National Native American Heritage Month provides San Mateo County educators and families the opportunity to teach students about the Ohlone people, their role in the history of the county and the Bay Area, and their efforts to keep their culture alive;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize November 2024 as National Native American Heritage Month and the Friday after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day, and encourage San Mateo County schools and families to share with young people the history of the indigenous peoples of California, including the Ohlone of San Mateo County, and find time to acknowledge and express gratitude toward the original residents of the land on which we reside.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Passed and Adopted on this
Twenty-Third Day of October 2024

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

President
