

Woodland Joint Unified School District



**Resolution 27-23:
Black History Month – February 2023**

WHEREAS, the month of February is the time that we, not only as a nation but as a community, recognize and celebrate National Black History Month and this year’s theme of “Black Resistance;” and

WHEREAS, the first Africans were brought against their will to the shores of the United States of America over 400 years ago, as part of the unjust and inhumane practice of slavery, bringing with them skills, knowledge, and traditions. African Americans have created an enduring impact on our nation and our local communities as private citizens, business owners, African American organizations, as well as staff, educators, and administrators; and Woodland Joint Unified School District recognizes the importance of teaching this rich, impactful history to all students not just in February; and

WHEREAS, in 1926, nearly half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, the noted historian, Carter G. Woodson created “Negro History Week,” which was celebrated during the week that encompassed the February birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglas; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, then President Gerald R. Ford expanded the celebration to a month as a national tradition established in response to the inadequate depiction of African Americans and urged Americans to “Seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of African Americans in every endeavor throughout our American history;” and

WHEREAS, as Woodland Joint Unified School District recognizes that each student needs an opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people; to develop pride in their own identity and heritage; and to understand, respect, and accept the identity and heritage of others, as diversity and representation helps strengthen communities and improve student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, not only during the month of February, but throughout the year it is important to recognize and celebrate the lasting influences of courage, community, and pioneering influence like Brenda Earl Jones-Smith, James Baldwin, Dr. Maya Angelou, Alvin Ailey, Ella Baker, Dr. Charles Drew, General Colin Powell, Katherine Johnson, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Barack H. Obama, John Lewis, and the educator Wentworth Cheswell, the first American of African descent to serve as an elected official, which he did in several capacities including on a local school board; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate National Black History Month, we remember these and many other African Americans who have enriched our lives and shaped our character as a community and beyond, challenging us to recognize that America’s racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity are among our greatest strengths which unite us rather than divide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Woodland Joint Unified School District is proclaiming February as “Black History Month” and encourages its students, staff, administration, families, and community to participate in meaningful activities that recognize the contributions of African Americans to the community, state, nation, and world.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of February 2023, by unanimous vote.


BOARD SECRETARY


BOARD PRESIDENT