

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Resolution 56-23: Recognizing and Celebrating Juneteenth - June 19, 2023

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers rode into Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended, that slavery had been abolished throughout the United States in January of that same year with the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, and that all slaves in the confederate states had been freed with President Lincoln signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, nearly three years prior; and

WHEREAS, spontaneous celebration erupted throughout the country when African Americans learned of their freedom; and

WHEREAS, for former slaves, the Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, praying, and gathering remaining family members together, and as such, Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date; and

WHEREAS, although Juneteenth education and celebrations declined in America in the early part of the 20th Century, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s saw a resurgence of interest in Juneteenth, along with renewed community celebrations of the day; and

WHEREAS, observance of Juneteenth spread from Texas, where it became an official state holiday in 1980, to the neighboring states of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, as well as Alabama, Florida, and California, where many African American Texans migrated; and

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth tradition has been celebrated in the State of California since the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery, is also known as "Juneteenth Independence Day," "Emancipation Day," "Emancipation Celebration," and "Freedom Day;" and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the era of the "Modern Juneteenth Movement" began when a group of Juneteenth leaders from across the country gathered in New Orleans, Louisiana, to work for greater national recognition of Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement, and is a time for reflection and rejoicing, for assessment, self-improvement, and planning for the future; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth symbolizes freedom, celebrates the abolishment of slavery, and reminds all Americans of the significant contributions of African Americans to our society; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations are a tribute to those African Americans who fought so long and worked so hard to make the dream of equality a reality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees recognizes Juneteenth and encourages district employees, students, and families to join in celebrating Juneteenth as a day to honor and reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States and how they have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting unity and equality.

IN WITNESS THERETO, the Woodland Joint Unified School District does hereby adopt this resolution this 15th day of June 2023, by the unanimous Board of Trustees vote.


BOARD SECRETARY


BOARD PRESIDENT