

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Resolution 27-24:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 15, 2024

WHEREAS, renowned civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received his bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Morehouse College; in 1951, he received his bachelor of divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary, as valedictorian and student body president, and in 1955, he was awarded a doctorate in systematic theology from Boston University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was ordained pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1954; and

WHEREAS, on December 5, 1955, Dr. King was elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association and the Montgomery Bus Boycott began; and, during the boycott, Dr. King gained national prominence as an exceptional leader with extraordinary oratorical skills and personal courage; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on August 28, 1963, at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway in 1964, and the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 was enacted as a direct result of Dr. King's work; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Dr. King led the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, and President Lyndon Johnson signed the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped change public policy from segregation to integration, resulting in the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state laws mandating racial segregation in the south known as the Jim Crow Laws, thereby leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other antidiscrimination laws aimed at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 1968, while in Memphis, Tennessee, assisting striking sanitation workers, Dr. King was assassinated; and

WHEREAS, despite resistance to the creation of a new national holiday, the diligence and perseverance of United States Representative John Conyers and numerous others in pursuing this goal culminated on November 2, 1983, when President Ronald Reagan signed legislation making Dr. King's birthday a national holiday, and January 20, 1986, marked the first observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to fighting segregation and injustice by nonviolent means and is an outstanding example of courageous leadership in the face of unrelenting violence and harassment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees hereby proclaim January 15, 2024, as "Martin Luther King Jr. Day" and encourages schools to teach about the life of Dr. King and to participate in celebrations honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King as a powerful force for social justice and empowerment for all.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of January 2024, by the following unanimous vote:


BOARD SECRETARY


BOARD PRESIDENT