



# SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.1

**Meeting Date:** February 1, 2024

**Subject:** Approve Resolution No. 3381: Recognition of National Black History Month, February 2024

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

**Division:** Human Resources Services

**Recommendation:** Approve Resolution No. 3381: Recognition of National African American History Month, February 2024.

**Background/Rationale:** February has been designated as National African American History Month. The Resolution recognizes the importance of honoring the significant contributions of African Americans on society, nationally and globally. The Resolution acknowledges the need for culturally relevant curriculum that outlines these contributions of African Americans. It states that SCUSD must strive to develop a deeper understanding of the disproportionate hardships many African American students and community members' face in today's society, and calls for the District to continue addressing such disparities through thoughtful and holistic policy, programming, information sharing, stakeholder collaboration, and outcomes in order to move towards greater equity in our educational system and the greater community.

**Financial Considerations:** N/A

**LCAP Goal(s):** College, Career, & Life-Ready Graduates; Safe, Emotionally-Healthy & Engaged Students; Family and Community Empowerment; and Operational Excellence

**Documents Attached:**

Resolution No. 3381 will be available on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

**Estimated Time of Presentation:** 5 min

**Submitted by:** Lavinia Grace Phillips, Board President

**Approved by:** Lisa Allen, Interim Superintendent

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3381**

**RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
FEBRUARY 2024**

**WHEREAS**, National Black History Month is a national tradition established in response to incomplete and biased depictions of Black History and African American communities in historical documents and school curricula; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential to recognize that Black History extends far beyond the era of slavery, encompassing a rich tapestry of experiences, achievements, innovations and cultural contributions that have played a crucial role in shaping the world we live in today;

**WHEREAS**, African Americans shaped our world and nation in countless ways - those recognized, unrecognized and unrecorded; and

**WHEREAS**, the contributions of African American citizens, scientists, inventors, educators, farmers, homemakers, elected officials, clergy, service people, entertainers, athletes and explorers of earth and sky, have been recognized annually during National Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, 2023 California School Dashboard results show significant disproportionality in the outcomes for Black students compared to all District students; specifically the District's graduation rate is 84% for all students and only 74% for Black students; the District's suspension rate is 6% for all students and 15% for Black students; the District's College and Career Indicator shows that 33% of all students are prepared for post-secondary college and career opportunities, but only 12% of our Black students are prepared; the Chronic Absenteeism rate for all students is 29%, but 49% for Black students; and finally, 30% and 17% of Black Students were meeting grade level standards in ELA and Math respectively, while 38% and 29% of all students met grade level standards in ELA and Math, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, within our district, there are a total 5,673 students who received Special Education services during the 2022-23 school year. A total of 1,042 (18.4%) of these were African American students. Of the district's 2022-23 enrollment of 37,289 students, a total of 4,426 (11.9%) of these were African American students. Thus, African American students are disproportionately represented within the population of our students receiving Special Education services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education adopted 13 recommendations at the advisement of the African American Task Force;

**WHEREAS**, during Black History Month and throughout the year, the District is committed to fostering inclusivity and equity by creating anti-biased, anti-racist working and learning environments, exploring Black History and providing culturally-relevant educational experiences that can serve to close health, opportunity and achievement disparities for black students, employees and families.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education does hereby recognize the month of February as Black History Month to celebrate the experiences and contributions of SCUSD Black students, families, staff and community members;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education will encourage all staff and members of the community to recognize and celebrate National Black History Month through culturally relevant activities and programming.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that this school Board encourages the promotion of cultural awareness, fostering an environment where students and educators alike appreciate the richness of Black history throughout the entire year.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that during Black History Month, the District will prominently display symbols and representations that celebrate the heritage and contributions of Black/African American communities.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that this school Board is dedicated to presenting a more holistic narrative of Black History that transcends stereotypes and the confines of a singular chapter, such as slavery, and incorporates the countless stories of Black resilience, triumph and excellence throughout the ages and across subject matters.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that in an effort to provide educators and students with resources for teaching and learning Black History, the District will examine and improve the curriculum adoption process across all subject matters to ensure inclusivity of Black history and experience.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Board expects educators to incorporate diverse perspectives into their instruction, ensuring that students are exposed to the full spectrum of Black history, including but not limited to pre-colonial civilizations, contributions of Black inventors, leaders, artists, scientists and trailblazers in various fields.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the District ardently supports policies, practices and curricula that honor and respect the diverse histories, cultures and achievements of Black/African American students, staff and their families.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the District advocates for laws that promote the representation, inclusion and privacy of Black/African American people. The District vehemently opposes laws that perpetuate negative stereotypes, limit discussions on Black history and experiences, or restrict the provision of culturally sensitive education. The District is committed to opposing any legislation that undermines the celebration and understanding of Black/African American heritage.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the District, in partnership with staff and community partners, will review feedback from listening sessions with Black students and families and continue to examine academic, discipline and suspension practices and outcomes with the intent to inform ongoing improvement efforts in these areas;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the District will expand existing academic, culture and climate, mental health and attendance supports and resources specific to furthering Black student achievement

and well-being into a comprehensive toolkit to be provided to staff across all SCUSD departments and sites for the 2024-25 school year.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the District will continue to expand school-to-college and school-to-career opportunities and partnerships in our local Black community to support efforts in raising awareness about opportunities that can be key in keeping students engaged in academic and social life; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the district will continue to provide and expand professional learning that supports educator exploration of Black History, the development of anti-racist, anti-biased practices and the design of culturally-relevant learning experiences in order to address health, opportunity and achievement disparities for black students, employees and families.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_  
NOES: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTESTED TO:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Allen  
Secretary of the Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lavinia Grace Phillips  
President of the Board of Education