

May 14, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – May 14, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- B. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 55 to Recognize May as Jewish American Heritage Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 55 as part of the regular County Board meeting on May 14, 2024; and further asks that the County Board declare May as Jewish American Heritage Month and encourage all education communities to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

The Board resolution is shown on the following page.

Next Steps:

- Promote educational opportunities related to Jewish American history and contributions to American society, including through ethnic studies implementation.
- Continue to demonstrate honor and respect for Jewish Americans and all groups that make up the rich tapestry of our schools and communities.
- Continue our efforts to uplift and celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion through programs and events, with a focus on individual and collective care and wellbeing.
- Take steps to proactively combat Jewish hate and antisemitism to ensure the safety of all Jewish students and staff in schools across LA County.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 55: 2024-25

Recognize May as Jewish American Heritage Month

- WHEREAS,** Jewish American Heritage Month is observed in May each year to honor the contributions of Jewish Americans to the United States and to raise awareness of the rich heritage of the Jewish people; and
- WHEREAS,** there are an estimated 7.5 million Jewish Americans, with California being home to the second largest Jewish population in the United States;
- WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans represent a vibrant, diverse and multifaceted community with a rich heritage encompassing ancestry, culture, and traditions, as well as a range of religious practices and cultural traditions; and
- WHEREAS,** the diversity within the Jewish American community enriches our nation and adds to the vibrant tapestry of American life; and
- WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans have played a pivotal role in the history of the United States, contributing significantly in fields such as science, arts, literature, law, business, entertainment, government and military service; and
- WHEREAS,** Jewish American heritage is a part of the broader story of immigration, struggle, resilience, and respect for tradition that has been a cornerstone of the American experience; and
- WHEREAS,** the stories and accomplishments of Jewish Americans are essential to the narrative of our Nation and provide rich examples of commitment to faith, dedication to community, and contributions to national progress; and
- WHEREAS,** it is essential to honor and educate around the history, struggles and achievements of Jewish Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** On May 6th 2024 we took pause for Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom Hashoah in Hebrew, and remembered the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazi regime and its allies during the Holocaust from 1943-1945.
- WHEREAS,** bias and discrimination, including anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish hate negatively impact the wellbeing and sense of belonging for diverse communities and our society as a whole;
- WHEREAS,** the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reports that antisemitic incidents increased by 360 percent in the three months following the October 7th attack on Israel; and

WHEREAS, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reports that antisemitic incidents in Los Angeles increased by 198 percent from 2022 to 2023; and

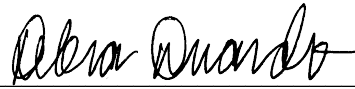
WHEREAS, LACOE stands firmly and unwaveringly against antisemitism and any form of anti-Jewish hate; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognizes May as Jewish American Heritage Month and encourages all schools and community members to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans to our nation's history and culture with appropriate programs and activities.

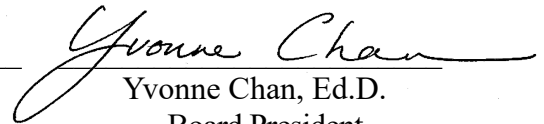
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LACOE encourages educational leaders to observe this month with appropriate instructional activities, including teaching students about the contributions of Jewish Americans, understanding their historical challenges and celebrating their achievements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LACOE supports schools in organizing and endorsing activities that honor and celebrate Jewish American heritage, thereby promoting diversity and cultural understanding in our schools and community.

ADOPTED this 14th day of May 2024, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent



Yvonne Chan, Ed.D.
Board President