

June 4, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – June 4, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

B. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 58 to Recognize Juneteenth on June 19, 2024

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 58 as part of the regular County Board meeting on June 4, 2024; and further asks that the County Board declare June 19 as Juneteenth and encourage all education communities to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities. We encourage school communities to focus on activities that generate in-depth discussions and understanding of the history of emancipation of Blacks/African Americans and their extraordinary contributions in advocating for social justice and racial equity; and to provide instructional resources and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of Black/African American students.

Resolution No. 58 is attached.

Next Steps:

- The LACOE Black/African American Heritage Committee will host a Juneteenth celebration on Tuesday June 18, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the LACOE Education Center West 606B to commemorate the Juneteenth holiday.
- The Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Division will collaborate with West Ed to provide Talking About Race as Healing Practice Workshops for African American Employees.
- The Equity and Social Justice Team led by Dr. Jamaal Williams will be undergoing training, and facilitating work in order to address the needs of African American students and employees here at LACOE.
- The Equity and Access Department in collaboration with the HR Department will be undertaking a Hanover Hiring Analysis in order to increase equity in LACOE practices.
- LACOE's Educational Programs Department will convene a task force to identify and implement a plan to improve outcomes for African American students attending LACOE schools.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 58: 2023-24

Juneteenth (June 19, 2024)

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger made the announcement that tens of thousands of African-Americans in Texas had been emancipated, closing the door on one of the last chapters of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the announcement came two-and-a-half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation that freed slaves in Confederate states; however, since that proclamation was made during the Civil War, it was ignored by Confederate states and it wasn't until the end of the war that the executive order was enforced in the South; and

WHEREAS, the day's name is a combination of "June" and "nineteenth" in honor of the date of the announcement; it is also known as African American Freedom Day or Emancipation Day; and

WHEREAS, Texas celebrated Juneteenth beginning in 1866 with community centric events, including historical and cultural readings and musical performances; and over time communities nationwide have developed their own traditions and celebrations; Juneteenth is now an annual holiday observing the end of slavery in the U.S. and marks the day (June 19, 1865) when news of emancipation reached people in the deepest parts of the former Confederacy in Galveston, Texas; and


WHEREAS, in 2021, Juneteenth became the first new federal holiday created by Congress in nearly four decades. The bipartisan legislation was signed into law by President Biden on June 17, giving Juneteenth the same status as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and other federal holidays.


WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a time for us to celebrate Black American history and culture and reflect on our nation's legacy of slavery and its impact on Black Americans, as well as institutional and structural racism; and

WHEREAS, LACOE is committed to valuing diversity and believes deeply that equity, respect and justice are central to the character of who we are, to the health of our democracy and to the well-being of our world; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby declare June 19 as Juneteenth and encourage all education communities to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities. We encourage school communities to focus on activities that generate in-depth discussions and understanding of the history of emancipation of Blacks/African Americans and their extraordinary contributions in advocating for social justice and racial equity; and to provide instructional resources and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of Black/ African American students.

ADOPTED this 4th day of June of 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