

October 15, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – October 15, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

B. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 21 to Recognize November 2024 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board take action and approve Board Resolution No. 21 and declare November as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month and encourages education communities to observe this month with appropriate activities promoting awareness and appreciation of the Sikh community and their contributions to American culture and society.

Board Resolution No. 21 follows on the next page.

**Next Steps:**

LACOE will promote the Board Resolution and following resources:

- The Sikh American Community in California Lesson Plan
  - <https://www.caeducatorstogether.org/lesson-plans/tv13li2x/the-sikh-american-community-in-california>
- Sikh American Studies
  - [Introductory Video](#)
  - [Lesson Resources](#)
- General and Comparative Ethnic Studies
  - <https://www.caeducatorstogether.org/collections/c42hag38/general-comparative-ethnic-studies>
- Books for use in the elementary classroom:

**Fauja Singh Keeps Going** - by: Simran Jeet Singh

The inspiring true story of Fauja Singh, who broke world records to become the first one hundred-year-old to run a marathon, shares valuable lessons on the source of his grit, determination to overcome obstacles, and commitment to positive representation of the Sikh community.

**Guru Nanak** - by Rina Singh and Andree Pouliot

In this biography, exquisitely illustrated in the Indian miniature painting tradition, young readers learn about Guru Nanak's life, his spiritual journeys in which he spread his divine message from the Himalayas to present-day Sri Lanka to Mecca, and his teachings as expressed through his daily life and his poetry. Born into a humble Hindu family, Nanak was an extraordinary child who from a very young age questioned the rituals of religion and the ways of the world around him. He grew up to be a great spiritual teacher and revolutionary for his times. His attempt to define a universal humanity resulted in Sikhism – a religion that embraces everyone. Singh's version of the guru's life is based on the janam sakhis (birth stories) as well as the Sikh scriptures.

**BOARD RESOLUTION**

NO. 21: 2024-25

**Adoption of Board Resolution No. 21: California Sikh American  
Awareness and Appreciation Month, November 2024**

**WHEREAS**, the California State legislature has designated November as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month; and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 25 million Sikhs throughout the world and approximately 700,000 Sikhs live in the United States. Approximately half the nation's Sikh population live in California; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikhs have been living in California for over 100 years. Sikh Americans are part of the American fabric, from coast to coast, working in every profession, serving in our armed forces, holding important positions in American political and civic life and even leading efforts to promote civil rights for all Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sikh community of California has led a successful effort to pass AB1964, which provides workers in California the nation's strongest protections against religious discrimination; and


**WHEREAS**, Sikhs share basic values with Americans: the importance of equality, religious pluralism and justice for all; and

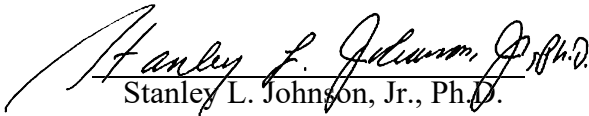
**WHEREAS**, many Sikh Americans continue to experience hate crimes, job discrimination, school bullying and racial profiling; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to raise awareness about the Sikh community and to prevent hate crimes and discriminatory practices against the Sikh community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby declares November as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month and encourages education communities to observe this month with appropriate activities promoting awareness and appreciation of the Sikh community and their contributions to American culture and society.

**ADOPTED** this October 15, 2024, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

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

  
Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.  
Board President