

February 18, 2025

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – February 18, 2025

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

B. Adoption of Board Resolution 38: to Recognize the Anniversary of Boston Massacre and Death of Crispus Attucks, March 5, 2025

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 38 as part of the regular County Board meeting on February 18, 2025; and encourages educators, librarians and education communities to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities that generate in-depth discussions of the life and legacy of Crispus Attucks, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Henry “Box” Brown and the countless and extraordinary contributions of Black Americans in advocating for social justice and racial equity.

Board Resolution No. 38 is shown on the following page.

NEXT STEPS:

- Send out LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.
- Invite school districts to participate in professional development opportunities and access materials to build content knowledge of the subject and acquire instructional strategies to teach the topic effectively in classrooms.
- Provide support to districts to implement ethnic studies with intentionality of including the history and contributions of the group identified.

• **Books for use in the elementary classroom:**

- **Crispus Attucks: A Hero of the American Revolution** by Charlotte Taylor

The book is designed to be accessible for younger readers with simpler language and sentence structures, focusing on key facts about Crispus Attucks. This American hero was a run-away slave who lived for many years as a whaler and seaman. He was in fear of the British tightening their control on Boston Harbor and forcing him into the Navy. Tensions would reach a peak on March 5th 1770.

- **Crispus Attucks and African American Patriots of the American Revolution** by Brian Siddons

The book is designed for young readers interested in learning about Crispus Attucks and the role of African Americans in the American Revolution. Crispus Attucks was a former slave who

was killed during the Boston Massacre in 177. Today, he is known as a hero who died fighting for his country. This book focuses on the important contributions made by African American men and women during the Revolution, and how they played a major role in the country's fight for independence.

- **Books for middle and high school students:**

- **First Martyr of Liberty Crispus Attucks in American Memory** by Mitch Kachin

The book is generally considered to be at a middle school to high school reading level (grades 6-12), as it delves into historical details about the Boston Massacre and the life of Crispus Attucks, which would require a certain level of historical understanding and vocabulary that include advanced terms related to the time and political concepts. The piece of literature involves historical events and figures, requiring familiarity with The American Revolutionary War.

- **The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution** by Sydney Kaplan and Emma Nogrady Kaplan.

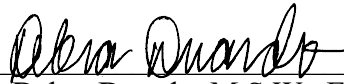
This well researched historical narrative details the military, cultural, political and economic experiences of black people during the era of the Revolutionary War. Starting with Crispus Attucks who was the first person killed in the war, the author describes a fascinating series of personal histories.

BOARD RESOLUTION
No. 38: 2024-25
Crispus Attucks Day (March 5, 2025)

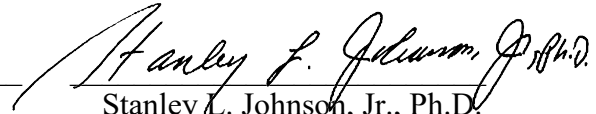
- WHEREAS,** Crispus Attucks, born in 1723, was an American stevedore of African and Native American descent, widely regarded as the first casualty of the American Revolution; and
- WHEREAS,** Attucks was gunned down by a British soldier during the 1770 Boston Massacre, a key event that led to the revolutionary war; and
- WHEREAS,** Attucks became a symbol of oppression of Black Americans and an icon of the anti-slavery movement in the mid-19th century; and
- WHEREAS,** supporters of the abolition movement lauded him for playing a heroic role in U.S. history and marked his death anniversary as Crispus Attucks Day, using the memory of his sacrifice to mobilize support for efforts to end slavery; and
- WHEREAS,** they presented Attucks as the first martyr of the Revolution who died fighting for liberty. The image resonated powerfully in a nation that placed millions of African Americans in bondage despite its stated ideal of freedom; and
- WHEREAS,** civil rights icon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. mentioned Attucks in his 1964 book, *Why We Can't Wait*, noting that "the first American to shed blood in the revolution that freed his country from British oppression was a black seaman" and as an example of a man whose contributions to history provided a potent message of moral courage; and
- WHEREAS,** several U.S. institutions, including schools nationwide, have been named after Attucks, and in 1998 the U.S. Treasury released a Black Revolutionary War Patriots silver dollar coin featuring Attucks' image; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 250 years after his death, he has become a rallying figure for a nation battling racism, as have a number of Black abolitionists including Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Henry "Box" Brown and many others; and
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education proclaims March 5, 2025 as Crispus Attucks Day and encourages educators, librarians and

education communities to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities that generate in-depth discussions of the life and legacy of Crispus Attucks, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Henry “Box” Brown and the countless and extraordinary contributions of Black Americans in advocating for social justice and racial equity.

ADOPTED this 18th day of February 2025, 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