



Pittsburg Unified School District
Resolution #20-22
Introduced by Board Trustee Dr. Woolridge

Black History Month Resolution

WHEREAS, The birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, The month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, 2020 marked the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment ratification to the Constitution in 1870 when African-American men first obtained the right to vote following the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, The theme for the 2020 H.RES 869 Recognizing and Celebrating the Significance of Black History Month called out the lessons we have learned from the struggle for voting rights for African-American men and women, and the continued challenges they face in exercising that right; and

WHEREAS, African Americans in all walks of life have made significant contributions throughout the history of the United States, including through the arts, education, music, literature, athletics, science, political representation and the military; and

WHEREAS, For over 36 million people of African-American descent, the designation and observation of February as Black History Month represents the nation's acknowledgment of the contributions, significance and continuing role of African-Americans in shaping the culture and history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Central to the role and history of African-Americans is the acquisition of a thorough and meaningful education, which provides the tools to design, control and determine their own destiny, including economic, educational and political; and

WHEREAS, "*equal access to a rigorous education*" has been a foundational premise around which k-12 education has strived to provide for all of its students, while still being an area that much work must be continued in.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education believes that a school community is strengthened via the elimination of systemic bias and institutional racism; thereby committing itself to take affirmative steps to engage in this important and necessary work.

WHEREAS, the PUSD Board of Trustees recognizes that the district can and must do more to increase representation of African American faculty and staff; and

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Pittsburg Unified School District joins with the nation in recognizing and celebrating February as Black History Month by acknowledging the significant and impactful contributions of African Americans to this nation, to our educational community and to the Pittsburg Unified School District community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Superintendent is directed to distribute a copy of this resolution to all school campuses within the district to increase awareness about Black History Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Superintendent is directed to provide support to the sites to develop an activity during this month that signifies the understanding of Black History Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Superintendent is directed to agendaize a board item with the Board of Education about the steps that the district has taken to eliminate systemic bias and institutional racism for students and employees alike, while internalizing anti-racist policies and practices within PUSD in order to promote a more socially and racially-just academic community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of February, 2022

by the following roll call vote:

AYES:4

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0



Duane Smith, Board President