

Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.	
File ID Number	20-2275
Introduction Date	11/12/2020
Enactment Number	20-1665
Enactment Date	11/12/2020 er



Memo

To Board of Education

From Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Sondra Aguilera, Chief Academic Officer
Raquel Jimenez, Executive Director, Office of Equity

Board Meeting Date November 12, 2020

Subject Resolution No. 2021-0129 - Declaring Annually the Month of November as Annual Indigenous People’s Heritage Month

Action Approve Resolution 2021-0129 - Declaring Annually the Month of November as Annual Indigenous People’s Heritage Month In District

Background & Discussion In 1990, the United States Congress passed Public Law 101-343, which authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the month of November as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” The month of November was chosen to recognize the American Indians as this month concluded the traditional harvest season and was generally a time of thanksgiving and celebration for the indigenous people. This Resolution would similarly designate November as Indigenous People’s Heritage Month each year from 2020 and afterwards. The Resolution further directs schools to promote appropriate instructional activities and engage in celebrations of Northern, Southern, and Central American Indian heritage to recognize our current Native American students and families, contemporary issues and culture, as well as their histories, and significant contributions in California, the United States and world.

Fiscal Impact N/A

Attachment Resolution No. 2021-0129 - Declaring Annually the Month of November as Indigenous People’s Heritage Month

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-0129

**DECLARING ANNUALLY THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S HERITAGE MONTH IN
DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, in 1990 the United States Congress passed Public Law 101-343, which authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the month of November as “National American Indian Heritage Month” and Congress chose the month of November to recognize the American Indians as this month concluded the traditional harvest season and was generally a time of thanksgiving and celebration for the indigenous people;

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District (“OUSD” or “District”) recognizes that it operates on the occupied/unceded territory of Huichin, a Ohlone territory that encompasses 6 Bay Area Cities: Oakland, Alameda, Berkeley, Emeryville, Albany and Piedmont;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the United States Census, estimates there were 6.1 million American Indian or Alaskan Natives living in the United States, representing 1.8% percent of the total population of 327 million;

WHEREAS, in the 2019-20 school year, American Indian students comprised 30,815 of California’s 6.1 million public school students, and many Latino and African American students have indigenous ancestral roots;

WHEREAS, OUSD’s [Title VI Native American Education Program](#) develops strategies to support our growing contingent of over 500 students identifying as Native American and Indigenous, and OUSD also recognizes and serves the influx of newly arrived indigenous migrants arriving from Mexico, Central America, and South America from many Indigenous Nations, including our growing population of more than 3,000 Mam speaking families, and the district celebrates their languages, diverse cultures and additions to the cultural capital of our community and shifts appropriate resources to serve their unique needs and promote cultural conservancy;

WHEREAS, according to Susan Lobo (Ph.D, Arizona State University), Native people from all over the United States moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1950s as part of the United States federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Relocation Program, with Oakland serving as a major destination for this program, and Indian people arriving from rural and reservation areas had to adjust to urban living;

WHEREAS, with the relocation of American Indians to Oakland, a support network and several community based organizations were established, such as the Inter-Tribal Friendship House, the Native American Health Center, American Indian Child Resource Center and the Office of Indian Education;

WHEREAS, the OUSD Office of Indian Education was specifically designed to the support the education of American Indian students from the Hintil Kuu Ca (Pomo Indian phrase meaning “Indian Children’s House”)

Preschool at Carl B. Munck School through high school, and currently supports newly arrived indigenous students from Mexico and Central America;

WHEREAS, in the mid-1700s, there were at least 10,000 indigenous people coexisting in about 40 distinct tribal groups between Big Sur and the San Francisco Bay Area - whom today are referred to as "Ohlone" - they spoke dozens of unique languages, harvested acorns, wove beautiful baskets, and built shell mounds;

WHEREAS, almost all of the Ohlone died as a result of state sponsored bounties, wars of colonization, forced slavery, and exposure to new diseases followed by despondency and malnutrition in the decades following the establishment of the California Missions;

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District recognizes the bravery and resilience of the Ohlone people and their descendants, celebrates the Ohlone as a living people and supports their efforts to revitalize and maintain language and culture;

WHEREAS, in the 1700s, prior to the arrival of the Spanish, Mexicans, and Americans, the Ohlone cared for the natural resources, taught the explorers what foods were safe to eat, and were then enslaved to build the Spanish Missions all over California, including the missions in Sonoma, San Rafael, San Francisco and Santa Clara;

WHEREAS, Indigenous People of the Americas are the original inhabitants of the lands that now constitute the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean;

WHEREAS, Indigenous People have made an essential and unique contribution to our Nation, not the least of which is the theft of most of the land which now comprises these United States;

WHEREAS, the people of the United States should be reminded of the assistance given to the early European visitors to North America by the ancestors of today's Indigenous People, including knowledge and training provided to the pilgrims in survival, hunting, and cultivation, and fertilization of indigenous crops;

WHEREAS, Indigenous People have always had a deep respect for the land. There was a love for every form of life and they did not kill anything they could not use. They did not kill an animal or a fish for the sport of it. Fishing and hunting were a way to survive. Indigenous People lived in harmony with nature and did not abuse the natural world. Indigenous People were ecologists long before the term was ever used; and

WHEREAS, the people and Government of the United States should be reminded that certain concepts such as freedom of speech, the separation of powers in government, and the balance of power within government, all of which were found in the political systems of various Indigenous People nations, influenced the formulation of the United States;

WHEREAS, many of the foods we eat today were first grown by Indigenous People such as white and sweet potatoes, beans, corn, chocolate, cotton, peanuts, pumpkins, tomatoes, tobacco, squash, peppers, nuts, melons, and sunflower seeds, rubber and gum. Plants were also used for dyes, medicines, soap, clothes, shelters and baskets. They also helped the European settlers survive in the New World by sharing farming methods with them;

WHEREAS, many Native Americans served in the United States military during World War I, World War II and other campaigns. Even though many of them were not granted citizenship until 1924, more than 8,000 Native Americans volunteered to serve during World War I and well over 24,000 served during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples have made and continue to make valuable contributions nationally and internationally in the areas of art, music, government, law, education, science, labor, literature, media, medicine, military, religion, technology, sports, and theatre, that are recognized annually during Indigenous Peoples History Month.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oakland Unified School District shall annually recognize the Month of November as Indigenous People’s Heritage Month, and schools shall promote appropriate instructional activities and engage in celebrations of Northern, Southern, and Central American Indian heritage to recognize our current Native American students and families, contemporary issues and culture, as well as their histories, and significant contributions in California, the United States and world.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of November, 2020, at a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE: None

PREFERENTIAL NOE: None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None

AYES: Aimee Eng, Jumoke Hinton Hodge, Gary Yee, James Harris, Vice President Shanthi Gonzales, President Jody London

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

RECUSED: None

ABSENT: Roseann Torres, Jessica Ramos (Student Director), Samantha Pal (Student Director)

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on November 12, 2020.

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	20-2275
Introduction Date:	11/12/2020
Enactment Number:	20-1665
Enactment Date:	11/12/2020
By:	er

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Jody London
President, Board of Education



Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education