

**West Contra Costa Unified School District**  
**Resolution No. 60-1617**  
**Honoring African-American History Month February 2017**

**WHEREAS**, Americans of African descent helped develop our nation in countless ways, those recognized, unrecognized, and unrecorded; and

**WHEREAS**, African American citizens have participated in every American effort to secure, protect, and maintain the essence and substance of American democracy, as reflected by California Education Code Section 37221(d) which established March 5 as Black American Day to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Crispus Attucks, the first person killed in the Boston Massacre and the first martyr of the American Revolution; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, the United States Congress passed Public Law 99-244, which designated February of that year as National Black (Afro-American) History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education would like to honor Carter G. Woodson, Father of African-American History Month, along with the myriad of African Americans who have contributed to tremendous accomplishments at the local, state, and national levels in education, religion, history, sciences, law, technology, corporate and medical arenas, and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education would like to honor local African American pioneers such as George D. Carroll, the first African American elected to the Richmond City Council, the first African American to serve as Mayor of that city, and the first African American judge in Contra Costa County; Irma Anderson, the first African American woman elected to the Richmond City Council and the first African American woman elected Mayor of that city; Frances Albrier, the first black woman to apply for work at the Richmond Kaiser Shipyards; and Sylvester Greenwood, the long-time teacher, principal and central office administrator for whom a high school is named; and

**WHEREAS**, The California State Board of Education recognizes in its Multicultural Education Policy that each student needs an opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people; and

**WHEREAS**, The history and contributions of African American citizens have been consistently overlooked, misinterpreted and undervalued in the curriculum of public education institutions prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education recognizes the need to educate on and work against the systems of oppression, racism, prejudice, dehumanization, lack of basic human rights, and violence against African Americans that are still prevalent in today's society; and

**WHEREAS,** The History-Social Science Framework of California Public Schools, Kindergarten through Grade Twelve, states that the history curriculum of community, state, region, nation, and world must reflect the experiences of men and women and of different racial, religious, and ethnic groups throughout the K-12 educational program.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the State Board of Education, as does the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education proclaim the month of February 2017 as African American History Month, and encourages all educational communities to commemorate this occasion with appropriate instructional activities.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this eighteenth day of January 2017 at a regular meeting of the Board of Education by the following vote:

AYE's \_\_\_\_

NO's \_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the members of the Governing Board of the West Contra Costa Unified School District, at a public meeting of said Board held on January 18, 2017.

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President, Board of Education  
West Contra Costa Unified School District

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Clerk, Board of Education  
West Contra Costa Unified School District