

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
RESOLUTION 20/21-62
in Recognition of Arab American Heritage Month

WHEREAS for over a century, Arab Americans have been making valuable contributions to virtually every aspect of American society, including medicine, law, business, technology, government, and culture; and

WHEREAS since migrating to the United States, men and women of Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting fine examples of model citizens and public servants; and

WHEREAS Arab migrants to the United States brought with them their resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed, strengthening the fabric of our diverse nation; and

WHEREAS writer Ameen Rihani's 1911 masterpiece, "The Book of Khalid," the first Arab-American novel, is an important record of Arab immigration to the "Little Syria" community of Lower Manhattan and today is a powerful example of the potential of the United States to strengthen ties with the Arab world; and

WHEREAS Arab-American poet Kahlil Gibran's masterpiece, "The Prophet," was a transformative piece of literature, with over 100 translations, making it one of the most translated books in history and discusses topics of the human condition in the most eloquent of ways by highlighting inclusion and understanding of all peoples; and

WHEREAS it was entertainer Danny Thomas founded the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the 1950s in Memphis, Tennessee, and today it is the leading institution in treating children with cancer as well as in researching new treatments; and

WHEREAS the history of Arab Americans in American life often remains neglected or defaced by misunderstanding, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate in the form of crimes and speech; and

WHEREAS issues currently affecting Arab Americans, such as civil rights abuses, harmful stereotyping, harassment, and bullying, must be combated in the forms of education and awareness; and

WHEREAS there is a need for public education, awareness, and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Arab American in all aspects of American society, including discourse and policy; and

WHEREAS Mt. Diablo Unified School District is proud to serve and employ Arab American students, parents and employees; and

WHEREAS we seek to join with the State Department of the United States of America and the State of California in this proclamation with due recognition and honor,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District celebrates the countless contributions that Arab Americans have made to American society and the State of California, recognizing and honoring the month of April 2021 to be Arab American Heritage Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board of Education hereby

- (1) encourages staff to review the district's [equity policy](#) and review [cultural literacy resources](#);
and
(2) urges the district to observe Arab American Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate the contributions of Arab Americans to the United States.

AYES: NOES: ABSENCES: ABSTENTIONS:

Cherise Khaund, Board President

Debra Mason, Board Vice President

Linda Mayo, Board Member

Erin McFerrin, Board Member

Keisha Nzewi, Board Member

Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent

Resolution 20/21-62

Adopted at the meeting of the MDUSD Governing Board of Education on 04/14/2021
