

## RESOLUTION 2024-04

### PROCLAMATION TO DISPLAY THE RAINBOW FLAG IN PACIFIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**WHEREAS**, the rainbow flag is a commemorative flag and a symbol of celebration and safety for LGBTQ+ students and their families. Flying the rainbow flag symbolizes the District's celebration of diversity and support for the LGBTQ+ community; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ History Month is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements, and was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Day of Silence is observed in April each year as a movement against the harassment and bullying of individuals identifying with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) community; and

**WHEREAS**, Harvey Milk was the first openly gay elected official in the history of California, and Harvey Milk Day was established by the California legislature and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, California *Education Code* Section 37222.13 designates May 22 of each year as Harvey Milk Day, a day having special significance and encourages all public schools and educational institutions to conduct exercises remembering the life of Harvey Milk, recognizing his accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to this state.

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ Pride Month is a month dedicated to celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pride. Pride Month began after the Stonewall riots, a series of gay liberation protests in 1969, and has since spread outside of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 14, 2011, the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act was passed and signed into law in California and mandates the inclusion of the political, economic, and social contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the social studies and history curricula in California public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 14, 2016, the California State Board of Education passed a new History Social Science Framework that includes LGBTQ+ American history content to be taught in K-12 classrooms that includes the importance of Harvey Milk; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ community members across Santa Cruz County have made significant contributions to our community including Senator John Laird who was the first openly gay

elected official in Santa Cruz County, Mayor Jimmy Dutra in Watsonville, Mayor Donna Meyers in Santa Cruz and many other public officials across the county; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ individuals and allies across Santa Cruz County continue to make noteworthy and important contributions to American history, culture and society; and

**WHEREAS**, all students deserve to feel safe and welcome in their schools and to see themselves represented in the curricula; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pacific Elementary School District supports the rights, freedoms and equality of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, and asexual (LGBTQ+); and

**WHEREAS**, the Pacific Elementary School District affirms its role in, and commitment to, continuing the historical process of transforming the educational system to ensure inclusiveness, safety, and a sense of belonging for all LGBTQ+ students, teachers, staff, and their families; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pacific Elementary School District fly the rainbow flag in Pacific Elementary School during the school year and encourages teachers to teach lessons about LGBTQ+ history in their classrooms aligned with the State History Framework.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Pacific Elementary School Board of Education at a meeting held on September 19, 2023, by the following vote:

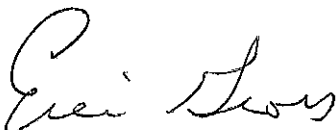
**Ayes:** 3

**Noes:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

Approved on this date, September 19, 2023



*Eric Gross*

Board Secretary & Superintendent/Principal