

# BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## RESOLUTION NO. 21-014

### DECLARING ANNUALLY THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) recognizes that our school district is located on the territory of xučyun (Huichin), the ancestral and unceded land of the Muwekma Ohlone people; and

WHEREAS the Muwekma Ohlone people are alive and flourishing members of Berkeley and Bay Area communities today, maintaining cultural practices, revitalizing the Chochenyo language, protecting sacred places, and represented by a tribal government seeking restoration of federal recognition for the hundreds of members who are descendants of the Federally Recognized Verona Band of Alameda County; and

WHEREAS, the resilience of the Muwekma Ohlone indigenous people and their descendants is reflected in their expressed values which include respect for self, others, and everything in the natural world, generosity, giving back what you take, fair play, thinking of others before thinking of yourself, patience, and a sense of humor, and these values resonate with the BUSD's expressed values which include respect for others and acting with integrity; and

WHEREAS, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible our history, our relationships and our debt to Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the City of Berkeley acknowledged the Ohlone Peoples as the original inhabitants of the land now called Berkeley with Resolution 67,352 by the Council of the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, on the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas, the City of Berkeley declared October 12 as a "Day of Solidarity with Indigenous People" and replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day, setting an example now followed by over 200 cities, universities and states; and

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; and

WHEREAS, many of our students and families are descended from the Indigenous People of the Americas, including the original inhabitants of the lands that now constitute the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean, with histories that should be incorporated into public education; .

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Unified School District shall annually recognize the month of November as Indigenous People’s Heritage Month, and our public schools shall promote instructional activities and celebrations honoring the history, contemporary issues and culture of the Indigenous People of the Americas, including recognition of their significant contributions in Berkeley, the Bay Area, California, the United States and the world.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education on the 18th day of November, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Ka’Dijah Brown  
Clerk, Board of Education