

From: Salah Elbakri

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 5:56 PM

To: Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of 7.4. Resolution No. 35/19-20 - Supporting Ethnic Studies in the San Mateo – Foster City School District (v

Dear Board member,

in January of this year, Tony Thurmond, State superintendents of schools in his released Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Update sited "Over the course of history, both in our state and nationally, specific ethnic groups have had unjust treatment even from respected institutions of authority.' This unjust treatment has many faces, one of which is telling the narrative of any nations or ethnicity from the lenses and mindset of another nation, be it east or west.

If I should like to study American History, then I would like to read the writings of Howard Zinn or Thomas S.Kidd or Prentice Hall Muncher, I would not, however, solicit the help of any Chinese or North African Writer. Similarly when telling the story of people of the pacific islands or Arab Americans, One should expect to read the work of Edward Said or any other writer who lived that experience and can elaborate on the collective consciousness of such people.

I am of the strong belief that the Ethnic Studies Studies Model which is co authored by Professors, teachers and people of these regions is the closest to perfect choice to our students of Arab origins. Our kids crave this knowledge. It is their culture and they deserve to be proud of it. It can only enrich all of our children in the San Mateo and Foster City School District. For diversity is our strength!

Respectfully,

Salah E. ELabkri

Parent, resident and community organizer