

DATE: May 14, 2020
TO: Board of Trustees
SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting Ethnic Studies Curriculum

CONSENT ITEM

The Board of Trustees will approve a resolution supporting the California Ethnic Studies model curriculum.

BACKGROUND

In September 2016 Assembly Bill (AB) 2016 was passed requiring the California Department of Education to develop an Ethnic Studies curriculum for grades 9-12. The attached resolution supports the Ethnic Studies curriculum that has been drafted by the California Department of Education.

BELMONT-REDWOOD SHORES SCHOOL DISTRICT

2019-2020

RESOLUTION #21

**AFFIRMING SUPPORT OF AB 2016
CALIFORNIA ETHNIC STUDIES MODEL CURRICULUM DRAFT**

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District adopted a Strategic Plan that included a direction to foster global citizenship; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District adopted the History Alive! Instructional materials published by TCI which best aligned with the 2016 California History / Social Science framework and the global citizenship goal for students to respect, understand, and engage others within and beyond their own experience; and

WHEREAS, students from a variety and mixture of ethnic and racial backgrounds make up approximately 61% percent of the student population in Belmont-Redwood Shores and approximately 15% of the students have a home language other than English; and

WHEREAS, the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District has a commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity; and

WHEREAS, studies show that an Ethnic Studies curriculum helps to narrow the achievement gap and the opportunity gap for students of color as well as benefit white students; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies enhances equity in the school curriculum; and

WHEREAS, CA Education Code Section 51204.5 prescribes the inclusion of the legacies of ethnic and cultural groups who have contributed to the history, economic political, and social development of California and the United States, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies originated in this country during the Civil Rights and Third World Liberation Front struggles; and that its evolution includes the study of many ethnic and racial backgrounds from around the world, including those living with oppression, systemic racism and who are denied the right to live with dignity and freedom; and

WHEREAS, CA AB2016 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) is currently in process at the California Department of Education (CDE); and

WHEREAS, the current CA AB2016 ESMC draft has vast support from communities of color and intergenerational recognized Ethnic Studies educators and leaders across California and beyond; and

WHEREAS, California has one of the largest and most diverse student populations in the nation with 77% identified as students of color; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District affirms support of the California AB 2016 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Draft.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District affirms support for Pacific Islander Studies, Arab American Studies, West Asian American Studies, and Central American Studies and their continued inclusion in the ESMC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District affirms support for the ESMC maintaining the draft's framing and guiding language of the discipline, with additional scaffolding as necessary to be inclusive and supportive of multiple users;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the work of the Save CA Ethnic Studies Coalition in bringing together the experts to address any issues.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Trustees of the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District of the County of San Mateo, this 14th day of May, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES AND IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION

NOES AND AGAINST SAID RESOLUTION

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:
