

**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-25-13:**

**NAMING THE ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

***“THE DR. FRANK WELLS LIBRARY”***

**WHEREAS,** The Albany Unified School District (AUSD), and the educational community throughout Alameda County and the State of California, lost an esteemed and dedicated leader, colleague and dear friend on March 11, 2024 with the death of Dr. Frank Wells.

**WHEREAS,** Frank Wells was born on March 14, 1964 in San Francisco to Marilyn Williams and James Whitman. He grew up in the Potrero and Hunters Point neighborhoods of San Francisco and was the second oldest of five siblings.

**WHEREAS,** At the tender age of seven he began working, selling newspapers in San Francisco. His steadfast work ethic became a cornerstone of his character, leading him to join the United States Army upon graduating high school. The experience of serving in the U.S armed forces taught him how to stay focused under pressure, and Dr. Wells carried these skills with him throughout his life. Dr. Wells received an honorable discharge in 1984.

**WHEREAS,** In 1991 Dr. Wells was the first Black man to graduate from Santa Clara University’s Teaching Credential program. Dr. Wells subsequently returned to school in 1997 to earn his masters degree in Educational Leadership from California State University, Hayward (now East Bay) and later earned his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in 2001.

**WHEREAS,** During a career spanning over 30 years in public education, Dr. Wells served as a teacher, principal, director, assistant superintendent, superintendent, and an elected school board member.

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Wells joined the AUSD community as Superintendent in July 2019, bringing with him his vision of always prioritizing “what’s best for kids” as he would say, and helping to heal a community, unify families, and restore our students’ confidence in their schools as we attempted to move forward from a challenging time. He served in this role until his passing in 2024.

**WHEREAS,** During his tenure in AUSD, among many other accomplishments, Dr. Wells led the district through the reconstruction of two elementary schools, resulting in beautifully updated places of learning while staying under the allocated budgets, and advocated for and oversaw the renovations at Cougar Field, providing a much needed overhaul so that our students, their families and all members of our community can continue to safely enjoy that space for decades to come.

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Wells was the recipient of many awards and recognitions such as the Governor’s Top Academic Achievement Award, and the California State Superintendent of Schools Model School Award for improving test scores, eliminating achievement gaps and

increasing school graduation rates. He was also the recipient of the San Francisco Bay Area's Teacher of the Year Award, as well as the Administrator of the Year Award by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 5 in the category of Secondary Principal.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Wells was recognized by Congresswoman Barbara Lee with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in 2023 for creating the equity-based Young Men of Color mentoring program at Albany High School. In 2024 he also created the Young Women of Color mentoring program. He was a fierce advocate for all students, particularly students of color and members of other underserved groups.

**WHEREAS**, At the time of his passing, Dr. Wells was serving as the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA) President Elect, and had recently been awarded the CAAASA Marcus Foster Distinguished Educator Award.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Wells led with compassion and grace, having a knack for making every person he interacted with feel they were the most important person in the room. This was evident in his mantra, to be "hard on issues, soft on people." He was always optimistic and cheerful, and loved nothing more than to visit our students to connect and learn with them as they excelled in their classrooms and cheer them on in theaters, concert halls and athletic courts and fields throughout the district.

**WHEREAS**, Throughout his career, Dr. Wells studied and spread the importance of early childhood literacy and the far-reaching impact it has on students' lives and their ability to succeed, supporting efforts to strengthen AUSD literacy programs and instruction during his tenure as superintendent.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Wells brought wit, humor, and a willingness to roll up his sleeves to help wherever he was needed. He never lost sight of the immense responsibility to serve "our babies" as he called them to the best of his ability, while at the same time being lighthearted enough to ease tense situations with a joke and put on music, or sing himself, to lighten the mood and keep his team energized. He will be sorely missed, but his passion serves as an inspiration for us all.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, The Albany Unified School District will name the Albany High School Library in honor of the late Dr. Wells as "*The Dr. Frank Wells Library*."

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of Education of the Albany Unified School District of the County of Alameda, this 11th day of February 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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President of the Board of Trustees  
Albany Unified School District  
Alameda County, California