

**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-24-06
RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS
NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

WHEREAS, Native Americans are the original inhabitants of what is now the United States, yet they could not vote and were denied benefits entitled to American citizens until the Indian Citizenship Act passed in 1924; and

WHEREAS, there are 574 federally recognized sovereign Indian nations in the United States today and, while an estimated 150 different Indigenous languages are spoken in the U.S. and Canada, only 20 languages are currently spoken by children due primarily to the impact of residential boarding schools, with 130 languages potentially becoming extinct in the next 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Congress has recognized the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples Day is celebrated as a national holiday on October 10th; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples have a strong sense and knowledge of environmental stewardship, including agriculture, environmental awareness and protection, and a rich cultural heritage in oral literature, medicine, music, dance, language, art, and spiritual values; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have historical stories of enslavement, revolt, tragedy, resilience, and perseverance that need to be studied and understood so that meaningful change can happen; and

WHEREAS, many Native Americans do not celebrate “Thanksgiving”, viewing it rather as a day of mourning inasmuch as their generosity was rewarded with the theft of their land and removal, genocide, forced assimilation, and centuries of betrayal and broken treaties; and

WHEREAS, the inherent self-governance, self-determination, sovereignty and the return of land of tribal nations and Indigenous peoples is at the forefront of their struggles in dealing with the U.S. federal government today; and

WHEREAS, the Ohlone and other California tribes have survived over two centuries of state genocide and colonization during the Spanish, Mexican and American eras, pre-contact population of California’s Indigenous had been reduced by at least 92%; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Tribes of Lisjan, a vibrant and diverse Ohlone community of tribes and families, continue to inhabit their ancestral homeland, fight for their sacred sites and revitalize their cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, Albany sits on the territory of the ancestral and unceded land of the Lisjan, and

WHEREAS, the city of Albany recognizes the Confederated Villages of Lisjan by flying their flag permanently at City Hall; and

WHEREAS, we have a responsibility, consistent with Albany values of community and diversity, to acknowledge and work on our relationship with the Native People and to support their various present day challenges, and to look for authentic ways to both acknowledge and right these wrongs ;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albany Unified School District’s Board of Trustees recognizes the month of November as National Native American Heritage Month, and the Superintendent will ensure that staff nurtures and mentors Native American students in an environment that honors their cultures and that welcomes their participation in every school space. District schools and teachers will commemorate this occasion with appropriate instructional materials and activities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Albany Unified School District on this 24th day of October 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

ASTENTIONS:

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

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