

**RESOLUTION No. 6039**

Proclamation and Recognition of February as Black History Month

**RECITALS**

- A. Black History Month began in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, the creation of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans.
- B. A precursor of the Civil Rights Movement, Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans; a time for recognizing the central role of members of the African Diaspora in U.S. history.
- C. The contributions of members of the African Diaspora throughout history have made memorable and important impacts in the U.S. as artists, scientists, educators, entrepreneurs, influential thinkers, faith leaders, athletes, and political and governmental leaders reflect the greatness of the United States.
- D. Black history reflects a determined spirit of perseverance and cultural pride in its people's struggle to equitably share in the opportunities of a nation founded upon slavery as an economic driver, squaring with the values of freedom and justice for all people.
- E. Members of the African Diaspora have participated in every effort to secure, protect, and advance the cause of freedom and civil rights and continue to resist white supremacy.
- F. The local community has enriched the diversity of perspective and experience in our District; and the Board of Education desires to recognize and honor the achievements and contributions of members of the African Diaspora.
- G. Our history curriculum must reflect the lived experiences of people of different racial, religious, and ethnic groups, and Black Americans.
- H. All students need an opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people, to develop pride in their own cultural identity and heritage, and to respect and accept the identity and heritage of others.

**RESOLVED**

The Board of Education of the Portland Public Schools hereby recognizes the month of February 2020 as Black History Month and encourages all educators to commemorate this occasion with appropriate ceremonies, instructional activities, and programs.