

RESOLUTION No. 6833

Proclamation and Recognition of February as Black History Month

RECITALS

- A. Portland Public Schools celebrates Black excellence to elevate the success of Black students, and acknowledge their histories, and futures, in a way that affirms and allows Black students in our care to achieve their fullest potential and thrive into adulthood.
- B. Black History Month began in 1915 by historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent leaders, as a way to formally observe the visionary contributions of Black people, and now is a time for recognizing the central role and contributions of members of the African Diaspora in U.S. history.
- C. The contributions of members of the African Diaspora and their endeavors to learn and thrive throughout history and make unforgettable marks in our Nation as artists, scientists, educators, business people, influential thinkers, members of faith communities, athletes, and political and governmental leaders, reflects the greatness of the people of the African diaspora within the United States.
- D. Black history reflects a people with a determined spirit of perseverance and cultural pride in its struggle to equitably share in the opportunities and burdens of a nation founded upon the principles of freedom and liberty for all people.
- E. 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.
- F. All students need an opportunity to understand their rich history and common humanity underlying all people, to develop pride in their own identity and heritage, and to respect, know, and accept the identity and heritage of others.
- G. In service of the Portland Public Schools strategic framework of targeted universalism, shaped from the community-driven vision, we recognize our commitment to center the realities of Black students, and liberate them from the oppression embedded in our systems that they experience.
- H. Through leadership and practice, Portland Public Schools is dedicated to goals that advance racial justice, and demonstrate anti-racist values especially for Black communities in the Portland Metro area.

RESOLVED

The Board of Education of the Portland Public Schools hereby recognizes the month of February 2024 as Black History Month and encourages all educators to commemorate this occasion with appropriate ceremonies, instructional activities, and programs. The struggles and achievements of Black people and their role in America's history profoundly influences and enriches the culture of the United States. Portland Public Schools acknowledges these contributions and reaffirms its ongoing commitment to building awareness and an inclusive society.