

FRANKLIN-MCKINLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-08 – 44th BLACK APRIL COMMEMORATION

WHEREAS, April 30, 2019, marks the 44th year since the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, to communism; and,

WHEREAS, for many Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who were directly involved in the war and Vietnamese Americans who have settled in the United States, the Vietnam War was a tragedy full of great suffering and the loss of American, Vietnamese, and Southeast Asian lives; and,

WHEREAS, after the fall of Saigon, millions of Vietnamese and their families fled Vietnam to surrounding areas and the United States, including, but not limited to, former military personnel, government officials, and those who had worked for the United States during the war; and,

WHEREAS, in the late 1970s to mid-1980s, thousands of Vietnamese risked their lives by fleeing Vietnam aboard small wooden boats. These emigrants reached refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong; while approximately one-half of the people fleeing Vietnam in search of freedom and democracy perished at sea; and,

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census for 2010, more than 580,000 Vietnamese live in California, with a large concentration of Vietnamese residents residing in the County of Santa Clara; and,

WHEREAS, we must teach our children and future generations important lessons from the Vietnam War and the continuing situation in Vietnam, including how the plight of the Vietnamese refugees following the end of war serves as a powerful example of the values of freedom and democracy; and,

WHEREAS, we should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual freedom, sovereignty, and equal protection under the laws of a just and democratic world; and,

WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities will commemorate April 30, 2019, as Black April, a day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom, including freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of press, and Internet freedom; now, therefore, be it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Franklin-McKinley School Board recognizes the great tragedy and suffering, and lives lost during the Vietnam War. The month of April 2019 shall be proclaimed Black April Commemoration, a special time for us to remember the lives lost and the displacement of thousands during the Vietnam War era.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Franklin-McKinley School District this 26th day of March, 2019, by the following vote:

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| AYES: | <u>5</u> |
| NOES: | <u>0</u> |
| ABSENT: | <u>0</u> |
| ABSTAIN: | <u>0</u> |



Rudy Rodriguez, Board President, Board of Education