

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION #2016/2017-33

**RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE FLAG OF
THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND
HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VIETNAMESE-AMERICANS**

WHEREAS, on April 30, 1975, the Republic of Vietnam was overthrown by forces of the North Vietnam communist regime in an event now widely known and referred to as the "Fall of Saigon" and "Black April";

WHEREAS, the Fall of Saigon is solemnly observed in Vietnamese-American communities across the United States on and around April 30 each year;

WHEREAS, since the Fall of Saigon more than 1,000,000 refugees and immigrants from the former Republic of Vietnam have immigrated to the United States;

WHEREAS, since 1975, the greater East Side Union High School District community has become home to the largest population of Vietnamese families and students outside of Vietnam and, as such, the District community has a unique understanding of the plight of Vietnamese-Americans, many of whom left Vietnam in the pursuit of freedom and liberty;

WHEREAS, the District's Vietnamese-American community recognizes, embraces and cherishes the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag, also known as the flag of the former Republic of Vietnam, comprising three horizontal stripes of red upon a field of gold, as the heritage flag of the Vietnamese-American community and as a symbol of the community's solemn connection to Vietnam and family and friends still residing there, and their continued struggle for freedom and democracy for the people of Vietnam;

WHEREAS, the Vietnamese-American community has enriched the cultural, language and viewpoint diversity of our District;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees desires to recognize and honor the sacrifices of the Vietnamese-American community for their pursuit of freedom and human rights and for their ongoing contributions to the District community and our democratic society, and to encourage and support the honoring of the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag; and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that the culture and history of the Vietnamese people in San José and the District community should be distinguished and honored with the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1. The District hereby recognizes the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag as the cultural and heritage flag of the District's Vietnamese-American community and as a symbol of the community's continued struggle for freedom and liberty for the people of Vietnam;

Section 2. The Board of Trustees commemorates the anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, and acknowledges and recognizes the Vietnamese-American community's commitment to the principles of democracy, justice and the protection and advancement of human rights on which the United States was founded;

Section 3. The Board of Trustees encourages the recognition, commemoration and honoring of the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag and remembrance of the anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, each year at the District's school sites including the teaching and discussion of the significance of the impact of the Fall of Saigon on the lives of Vietnamese-Americans and the contributions of the Vietnamese-American community to the enrichment of the cultural, language and viewpoint diversity of our community and District schools.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the East Side Union High School District of Santa Clara County, this 13th day of April, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:	<u>5</u>
NOES:	<u>0</u>
ABSENT:	<u>0</u>
ABSTENTIONS:	<u>0</u>



Pattie Cortese
Clerk of the Board of Trustees
of the East Side Union High School District