

**PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District is to educate and to support learners in reaching their highest potential. We prepare students to pursue successful futures and to make positive contributions to the community and global society.



***Press Release***

*Date: September 18, 2018  
Contact: Alicia G. Jiménez  
Public Information Officer  
Office: 831 786-2114*

**Resolution in Recognition of Latino Heritage Month Solidifies PVUSD’s Commitment to Promote Accomplishments of Latinos in History**

Watsonville, CA. September 18, 2018 – On Wednesday September 12, the Board of Trustees of Pajaro Valley Unified School District approved the annual resolution promoting contributions of Latinos to the history of the United States. “With this resolution, PVUSD continues its commitment to honor Latino Heritage during this month, to promote equity and diversity through art, literature, and to celebrate the diversity within the Latino community. PVUSD is dedicated to developing cultural competency as represented in our efforts through the District’s Ethnic Studies Committee and introduction of our new Ethnic Studies courses at the high school level,” stated Dr. Michelle Rodriguez, Superintendent. During Hispanic Heritage Month, our District recognize the important contributions made by Hispanic and Latino Americans and celebrate their heritage and culture.

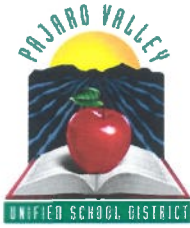
Board President Leslie DeRose stated, “PVUSD is fortunate in that we have a diverse community with many cultures to celebrate. With this resolution, we hope to inspire our students and staff to celebrate the richness and heritage of the Latino culture during Latino Heritage Month.”

Acknowledging Latino and Hispanic contributions and accomplishments began in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson through the Hispanic Heritage Week. President Ronald Reagan expanded it in 1988 to cover a 30-day period beginning September 15. This year marks the 30th anniversary of National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 — October 15), a month-long recognition of the many contributions Hispanics and Latinos have made to our country. In honor of the anniversary of Independence Day for five Latin American countries, September 15th was chosen as the official kickoff day for this important month.

The resolution honors the strength and diversity that Latinos have brought to our Nation, our community. In current times, as education and many other professional fields in our society look at systems through equity lenses, this resolution promotes ethnic consciousness and honors the historical contributions of Latinos and Hispanics to this Nation. Our pluriversal community makes our District strong and sharing of common experiences highlights the richness in our diversity.

This month we invite our community to reflect on the countless ways in which Latino writers, singers, and musicians have enriched our arts and humanities; on how innovative entrepreneurs have steered our economy; how scientists and engineers have revolutionized our ways of life and are making sweeping new discoveries; and how advocates have lead the way for social and political change. PVUSD is proud to reaffirm our commitment to expanding opportunity and building an ever-brighter future for all.

###



## PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

### RESOLUTION #18-19-10

### Recognizing September 15 – October 15 of 2018 as Latino Heritage Month

**WHEREAS**, Pajaro Valley Unified School District takes pride in joining citizens throughout the Country in recognizing September 15 – October 15, 2018 as National Latino Heritage Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the forerunner of National Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968 with a proclamation by President Lyndon B. Johnson as a week to celebrate Hispanic culture and recognize the important contributions that Latinos have made to this nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Latinos represent an array of distinct and vibrant cultures, each of which enriches our community in valuable ways and this serves as an opportunity to celebrate the group's heritage and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, the term Latino refers to México, Puerto Rico, South and Central America, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race, and according to the 2010 Census 50.5 million people, or 16% of United States of America population is of Hispanic origin; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1988, the week expanded into Latino Heritage Month to commemorate, through community activities, a more balanced and accurate picture of Latino history, and is celebrated annually for a month starting September 15, as it coincides with the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District recognizes the significant contributions and considerable advances that Latinos Americans have made, and continue to make in our community, state and the world, in such areas as education, medicine, art, culture, public services, economics and development, politics and human rights; we see the greatness of America in those who have risen above injustice and enriched our society; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District in its continued effort to honor Latino Heritage and during this month enhance equity and diversity, through art, literature, and celebrations of the diversity within the Latino community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pajaro Valley Unified School District proclaims September 15 through October 15, 2018 as Latino Heritage Month and is pleased to share in this special annual tribute by learning and celebrating the generations of Hispanics who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 12th day of September 2018 in Watsonville, County of Santa Cruz, California.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leslie DeRose", with the date "9.12.18" written to the right.

Leslie DeRose  
President, Board of Trustees