

July 20, 2020

A Resolution by the Beverly School Committee Recognizing Juneteenth as  
an Annual Celebration of the end of Slavery in the United States

WHEREAS, the month of June is the time that many in our nation, recognize Juneteenth as the holiday that celebrates Emancipation Day, the day in history when the last state ratified the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, this date marks the time period where African Americans of Texas received notice from President Lincoln that slavery had been abolished a declaration that was codified in the 13th amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, June 19th also marks the day that African Americans in the southern states exercised independence from those who benefitted from their labors in the founding of this nation; and,

WHEREAS, the journey of African Americans represents both great achievements and great hardship; and,

WHEREAS, our nation is currently witnessing the injustice of the African American journey that have existed for far too long, this June 19th celebration weighs heavily on our hearts and our minds in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and others who have not been treated equally under the law; and,

WHEREAS, the pain and anguish displayed on our national stage developed from generations of systemic racism that impacts our students, families, staff, and communities; and,

WHEREAS, the educational institutions of this nation, including Beverly Public Schools has a particular responsibility to recognize the painful realities of our history and to make sure that our curriculum reflects these realities; and,

WHEREAS, holidays provide educational opportunities for our students and can foster conversations and lessons around our nation's past; and

WHEREAS, we value diversity and are united in our opposition to racism and hate. Furthermore, we stand in solidarity with our African American students, educators, staff, and their families;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Beverly Public Schools hereby officially commemorate Juneteenth as a day to celebrate and emphasize a collective call to action against injustice of any kind. In doing so, we recognize Juneteenth in Beverly Public Schools starting the school year of the passage of this resolution.

