RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2440-5

WHEREAS, the month of May is recognized as Lyme Disease Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is primarily caused by the bacterium Borrelia burgdorferi and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is the fastest growing vector-borne illness in the United States (US); and

WHEREAS, the blacklegged tick is found in 50% of the US counties with a concentration in the Northeast, upper Midwest, and Western regions of the US; and

WHEREAS, approximately 500,000 Americans are diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease each year. To date, there have been approximately 1,300 reported cases of Lyme disease in Santa Clara County, though many cases go unreported; and

WHEREAS, when Lyme and tick-borne diseases are not quickly and properly diagnosed or treated, it may result in severe illness, disability, or death; In 2024 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) added Lyme disease to the list of disease agents that have been linked to chronic symptoms; and

WHEREAS, ticks that carry Lyme disease can carry other pathogens, many of which are reported in California and often cause co-infections (an infection with more than one tick-borne pathogen), which complicates diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, tick-borne diseases are a clinical diagnosis based on symptoms, physical findings, and the potential of exposure to infected ticks or their habitat; and

WHEREAS, growing evidence suggests that climate change may increase the incidence and prevalence of tick-borne diseases, like Lyme; and

WHEREAS, to protect oneself from potential tick bites while in a tick habitat, the Santa Clara County Vector Control District suggests staying in the middle of trails and to avoid touching logs, tree trunks, grassy areas, fallen branches, and leaf piles; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health also recommends, as a means of protecting oneself, to wear long pants while hiking, to use tick repellent, and to thoroughly check yourself and others (including pets) for ticks during and up to three days after being outside in areas with ticks; and

WHEREAS, students that are affected by Lyme disease and Lyme disease-like symptoms may be at greater risk of having their school attendance impacted; and

WHEREAS, school nurses and other health professionals have the opportunity to help raise awareness
about prevention and early detection among students and families; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 1, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Sreekrishnan
NOES: none
ABSTAIN: none
ABSENT: none

Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools