



Recognizing the Life of Cesar Chavez

The Board of Education
Pittsburg Unified School District

Resolution 17-27

Whereas, A passionate advocate for social justice and civil rights for the poor and disenfranchised, Cesar E. Chavez was a true American hero, this month provides a fitting opportunity to remember and honor his many contributions;

Whereas, In 1962 Cesar E. Chavez cofounded the United Farm Workers Union to contest the poor treatment of the workers in the fields, and sought to empower those workers by organizing the first union to acquire labor contracts for farm workers in the grape fields;

Whereas, Cesar E. Chavez changed the attitudes of the workers in the fields and the nation far beyond by leading them to live the La Causa slogan, “Si Se Puede,” by empowering all to fight for civil rights and to strive for justice for all minorities;

Whereas, For more than three decades, Cesar E. Chavez led this groundbreaking organization by effecting social change through peaceful tactics such as fasts, boycotts, strikes, and pilgrimages; his union's efforts influenced and inspired millions of Americans, forging a diverse national coalition of students, middle-class consumers, religious groups, and minorities in a hard-won struggle to achieve fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, humane living conditions, and perhaps most important, dignity and respect for the hundreds of thousands of farmworkers across the country;

Whereas, Cesar E. Chavez espoused the “Education of the Heart” for all students because he believed that it is not enough to teach our young people to be successful, to seek achievement, and to make progress as individuals while forgetting about progress and prosperity for their community and while leaving friends and neighbors behind; he believed that our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others;

Whereas, In 2000, the United States Senate established March 31st as Cesar E. Chavez statewide holiday in recognition of the life of this outstanding Mexican-American labor leader and the contributions he has made to the State of California;

Whereas, the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning was created for public school children to promote service to the communities of California in honor of the life and work of Cesar Chavez;

Whereas, even after his death in 1993, his message of non-violence, unity, and justice of all people continues on today;

Whereas, By successfully organizing the poorest of the poor, Cesar Chavez gave hope and pride to generations of Latinos. He also inspired millions of other Americans from all walks of life who never worked on a farm to strive for social justice; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Pittsburg Unified School District celebrates March 31st as Cesar E. Chavez Day to honor his legacy and urges the Superintendent to declare this day an opportunity for Service Learning within our local schools.

Be It Further Resolved, That the Superintendent encourages students, staff, school administrators, teachers, and community members to implement service-learning projects based on his life, work, and values.

Be It Further Resolved, That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to post a copy of this resolution at each School Site.

Passed and Adopted, on January 24, 2018, at a regular meeting of the Board of Education by the following vote:

AYES:	5	(Arenivar, Canciamilla, Miller, Smith, Woolridge) (Elam – Student Member)
NOES:	0	
ABSTAIN:	0	
ABSENT:	0	



De'Shawn Woolridge, Board President