

**DAVID DOUGLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCLAMATION:  
PROCLAIMING THE CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH  
IN THE MONTH OF JUNE**

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the South and the Southwestern United States; and

**WHEREAS** Emancipation Day observations are held on different days in different states in the South and Southwest, and in other parts of the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans, and is called "JUNETEENTH" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the ancestors of 17.3% of our David Douglas students and families and 4.5% of our David Douglas faculty and staff are African Americans and were not free until June 19, 1865, the Juneteenth holiday has a special meaning to our school community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Strategic Hiring Plan outlines specific strategies to increase staff of color, including a Grow Your Own Program with 35 staff of color enrolled.

**WHEREAS**, the Black Student Union and other student led groups organize and promote Black student success and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, the David Douglas School District has an adopted equity policy that states our commitment to closing the achievement gap for Black American students and creating an educational environment where all students can benefit equally from the educational programs offered; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is working towards eliminating the racial predictability and disproportionality on all aspects of education and articulated action steps in the adopted District Strategic Plan and District Equity Plan; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Donna Barber, Chair of the David Douglas School Board of Directors, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023.

**JUNETEENTH**

In the David Douglas School District.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the David Douglas School Board of Directors strongly encourages our staff and community to observe, recognize, and celebrate June 19 for its historical significance to our country, our state, our cities and, our schools.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

**Chair, David Douglas School District Board**