RESOLUTION NO. 25-2019/2020
OF THE
NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROCLAIMING APRIL 10, 2020, AS "DOLORES HUERTA DAY"

WHEREAS on July 18, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 2644, introduced by Assembly member Eloise Reyes (AD-47), designating April 10th as Dolores Huerta Day, making civil rights leader and community organizer, Dolores Huerta the first and only living person to hold this honor; and

WHEREAS Assembly Bill 2644 adds Section 37222.20 to the Education Code, stating “On Dolores Huerta Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises remembering the life of Dolores Huerta, recognizing her accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions she made to this state”; and

WHEREAS Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta was born on April 10, 1930, in Dawson, New Mexico, the daughter of Juan and Alicia Fernandez; and

WHEREAS Dolores Huerta became a school teacher in Stockton, California and became conscious of the need for economic justice through seeing her students come to school barefoot and hungry; and

WHEREAS during the 1950s, Huerta met legendary community organizer Fred Ross, Sr. and found her calling as an organizer serving in the leadership of the Stockton Community Service Organization (CSO), during which time she set up voter registration drives, pressed local governments for barrio improvements; and founded the Agricultural Workers Association (AWA); and

WHEREAS Dolores Huerta’s famed lobbying efforts were crucial in securing Aide for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and disability insurance for farm workers in the State of California in 1963; and

WHEREAS Dolores Huerta is the most prominent Mexican-American female labor leader in the United States, is the co-founder with Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW); and

WHEREAS for over 60 years beginning in the 1960s, Huerta lobbied in Sacramento and Washington D.C., organized field strikes, directed UFW boycotts, led farmworker campaigns for political candidates, negotiated the first UFW labor contracts and has played a major role in the American civil rights movement; and
WHEREAS in 2002, Dolores Huerta founded the Dolores Huerta Foundation, which recruits and empowers grassroots leaders in low-income communities to attain social justice by organizing volunteer organizations called Vecinos Unidos (United Neighborhoods) to work on issues in education, health, the environment, civic engagement and economic development; and

WHEREAS Dolores Huerta has received numerous awards, among them the California State Senate’s Outstanding Labor Leader Award, the ACLU Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award, the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award, the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award, the Consumer’s Union Trumpeter’s Award, Ms. Magazine’s “Woman of the Year” for 1998, the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton in 1998; and

WHEREAS Dolores Huerta was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1993, and served on the Board of Regents of the University of California; and

WHEREAS in 2012, President Obama presented Huerta the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States; and

WHEREAS her rallying cry of “Sí Se Puede” continues to call us to fight for the changes our communities need to thrive; and

WHEREAS young learners will benefit from having the opportunity to learn more about this leader for social justice and civil rights, empowering them to fight for fair representation, voting rights, and equitable education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Novato Unified School District does hereby adopt this Resolution to honor a national civil rights and labor leader in America on or around April 10th Dolores Huerta Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public schools in the Novato Unified School District are encouraged to teach about the life and struggles of Dolores Huerta and to conduct celebrations honoring the life of Dolores Huerta as a powerful force for social justice and empowerment for all.

APPROVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the governing body of the Novato Unified School District on this 11th day of February, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: 4
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 3
ABSENT: 3
State of California,
County of Marin

I, Debbie Butler, President of the Novato Unified School District Board of Trustees, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees at a regularly called and conducted meeting held on said date.

[Signature]
President, NUSD Board of Trustees

Attested to:

[Signature]
Vice President/Clerk, NUSD Board of Trustees