

**RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE,  
ACKNOWLEDGING JUNETEENTH  
AND AFFIRMING BLACK LIVES  
IN KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS**

**RESOLUTION:** 20-003

**PREPARED BY:  
SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE  
EVETTY SATTERFIELD, DISTRICT 1**

**APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

  
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**DEPUTY LAW DIRECTOR**

**BOARD APPROVED:** 6/19/2020  
**DATE**

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, freeing the enslaved in the South and the rest of the United States. However, many, if not all, southern slave owners ignored that order. On June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas and enforced the president's order, freeing the enslaved two and a half years after it was first decreed. This day has since come to be known as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, Knoxville, Tennessee recognizes August 8<sup>th</sup> as Emancipation Day. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863, Tennessee Military Governor, Andrew Johnson, freed those individuals enslaved in Greeneville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, systems of oppression have continued in the United States since June 19, 1865; such as segregated schools and communities, disparities in educational outcomes that include but are not limited to higher suspension rates among Black students, over-policing of Black students, and disproportionate representation of Black students within Special Education; and

WHEREAS, the impact of inadequate representation of Black educators in Knox County Schools and inconsistency of culturally relevant practices may affect the physical and mental health, safety, and the education of Black students; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging these forms of institutionalized racism is an imperative step to support the Knox County Schools' 2019 – 2024 Strategic Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knox County Board of Education recognizes Juneteenth, June 19, as

- (1) an annual celebration of the past, present, and future of Black liberation and those who work towards that liberation that is recognized on the KCS Annual Calendar; and
- (2) a constant reminder to continue to work towards eliminating educational disparities within Knox County Schools; and
- (3) an opportunity to recognize the impact, achievements, and contributions from Black staff, teachers, administrators, and students to the Knox County community at large.



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Chair, Knox County Board of Education

June 19, 2020

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Date