WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: Board of Education
FROM: XXXX, Director, Board of Education
DATE: March XX, 2010
SUBJECT: Resolution, Marking May 22 as Harvey Milk Day in the West Contra Costa Unified School District

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
In 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law a bill that established a special day of significance, which would support an annual statewide commemoration of Harvey Milk in California on May 22. The Resolution before us would establish May 22 as the day of recognition for Harvey Milk Day in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. The Resolution promotes the use of school-based activities and programs during this day wherein the life and legacy of Harvey Milk is acknowledged and celebrated annually as part of district activities.

POLICY/CODE
None

FISCAL IMPACT
None

BOARD MEMBERS’ RECOMMENDATION
Approve the Resolution marking May 22 Harvey Milk Commemorative Day in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.
WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION MAKING MAY 22
A HARVEY MILK COMMEMORATIVE DAY
IN THE WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, in 2009 the State of California designated Harvey Milk's birthday an official day of special significance and commemoration (May 22), and

WHEREAS, Education Code section 37222 now recognizes May 22 as Harvey Milk Day, and says that “public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to observe those days and to conduct suitable commemorative exercises . . . remembering the life of Harvey Milk, recognizing his accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to this state,” and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk’s story as California’s first openly gay elected official and his life’s work hold his place in California history as a trailblazer and civil rights pioneer, and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk’s life and social contributions have left an indelible mark on the history of our nation and hold a special meaning for the people of California, and

WHEREAS, the West Contra School District now honors Martin Luther King and Malcolm X as school holidays; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution includes the commitment to
• Distribute information on curricula and resources for teachers,
• Encourage teachers, through announcements and publications, to incorporate the curricula and resources into their lesson plans
• Encourage each school to have school-wide activities on May 22 to honor the legacy of Harvey Milk,
• Support existing efforts to celebrate Harvey Milk in the district, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond along with the Harvey Milk Day Commemoration Planning Committee began to celebrate a citywide commemorative day, May 22,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the district will make May 22nd Harvey Milk Day in the West Contra Unified School District and put this on all official publications of the district; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the district will also join the City of Richmond and all the city-wide partners in celebrating a commemorative day on May 22 honoring the life and legacy of Harvey Milk.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this xxx day of xxxx, 2010.

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Name, Clerk
Board of Education