

## **RESOLUTION No. 6364**

### Resolution in Celebration of Latinx Heritage in Portland Public Schools

#### **RECITALS**

- A. Hispanic Heritage Week, which began in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson, was expanded to National Hispanic Heritage Month by President Ronald Reagan and enacted into law in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15th, the day that represents the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries;
- B. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua from Spain in September of 1821. We also acknowledge the independence of Belize from the UK, Chile and Mexico's independence from Spain in 1810, and Brazil's independence from Portugal in 1822.
- C. Hispanics and Latinos have always enriched and positively impacted our community. From those whose roots trace back generations to those who have recently arrived to pursue the promise of the United States; they represent the spirit of our American Dream; that with hard work and an education, you can build a better life for yourself and a better future for your children.
- D. Hispanics and Latinos make profound contributions to our community and our nation and continue to make advances in education, science, art, culture, and public service and have been a consistent and vital influence in our community's growth and prosperity.
- E. More than sixteen percent of enrolled students in the Portland Public Schools are Hispanic and/or Latino;
- F. Hispanics and/or Latinos comprise almost ten percent of our employees and contribute to the accomplishment of PPS's mission at every level within every department and division of the District;
- G. Our schools honor and preserve the linguistic and cultural assets of Latinx students through student clubs like MECHA and enrichment programs such as our Dual Language Immersion and Ethnic Studies courses, with the option to obtain a seal of Biliteracy upon graduation that honors and enriches the diverse backgrounds of our heritage Spanish-speakers, while exposing non-Spanish speakers to diverse multilingual and multicultural perspectives;
- H. Our district and our community is strengthened by the support and advocacy of organizations like Latino Network, Hacienda CDC, the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber, Verde, Milagro Theater, and El Programa Hispano;
- I. We recognize that when we lift up Hispanic/Latino students, staff, families, and community members, we strengthen the fabric of our entire district; when we create more pathways to educational opportunity, we provide the chance for all students to reach their greatest potential;
- J. Understanding, recognizing, and promoting the assets of our Hispanic and Latino students, staff, families and community is an important part of celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month;
- K. Portland Public Schools' core value of Racial Equity and Social Justice is that we believe in the fundamental right to human dignity and that generating an equitable world requires an educational system that intentionally disrupts – and builds leaders to disrupt – systems of oppression;
- L. At no time in our community's history has the need to work together been more necessary, and it is important that residents of Portland join in a spirit of welcoming and inclusiveness to embrace the talents and contributions of all residents, including Hispanic and Latinx members of our community;
- M. Portland Public Schools has a Racial Education Equity Policy that states our commitment to affirmatively overcome the educational barriers that have resulted in a persistent, unacceptable gap for students of color and to give each student the opportunity and support to meet his or her highest potential;

- N. Closing opportunity gaps while raising achievement for all students is the top priority of the Board of Education, the Superintendent, and all district staff; and
- O. The Portland Public Schools Board of Education believes each and every student is to be celebrated and appreciated for the distinct and vibrant contributions made by sharing cultures, language, ideas, beliefs and values within a school community.

**RESOLVED**

- I. The Portland Public Schools Board of Education hereby promotes September 15th through October 15th as Hispanic Heritage Month and encourages staff, students, and community to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and contributions of Hispanics and Latinos to Portland, Oregon, and the United States through culturally relevant activity, and to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States.