



**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.26.0007

WHEREAS, from April 1 through April 30, 2026, the United States celebrates National Arab American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, for over a century, Arab Americans have been making valuable contributions to every aspect of American society: in medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, culture; and

WHEREAS, Victor George Atiyeh, who served as the 32nd Governor of Oregon, was the first Arab American elected Governor of a US state, highlighting the prominence of Arab Americans in political leadership and service to the public; and

WHEREAS, since migrating to America, men and women of Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting fine examples of model citizens and public servants; and

WHEREAS, the history of Arab Americans in the U.S. remains neglected or distorted by misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate in the forms of crimes and speech; and

WHEREAS, Arab American issues, such as civil rights abuses, harmful stereotyping, and bullying must be actively confronted in the forms of education and awareness; and

WHEREAS, the incredible contributions and heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better nation; and

WHEREAS, the Centennial School District serves a richly diverse student body, where Arab American learners and families are essential contributors to the cultural, academic, and civic life of our schools and communities;

AND WHEREAS, the Centennial School District Board is committed to celebrating and appreciating each student for the distinct and vibrant contributions made by sharing cultures, languages, ideas, beliefs and values within a school community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Board of Directors for the Centennial School District, hereby recognize April 1 through April 30, 2026 as National Arab American Heritage Month, and encourage staff, students, and the community to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and economic contributions of the Arab American community to Oregon and the United States through culturally relevant activities, and to deepen understanding of the experiences that have shaped our nation.

Signed: _____
Pam Shields Board Chair

Date: _____