

Resolution 2122R-014

By Directors Garcia and Gokalgandhi

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors is the one and only member of Region 14 of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB); and

WHEREAS, WASB has designated a process to submit 2022 resolution proposals to be considered by the WASB Policy and Resolutions Committee; and

WHEREAS, According to the WASB, 2022 Resolution Proposals process, all proposed resolutions must be officially approved at a meeting of the respective school board prior to submission; and

WHEREAS, According to the WASB 2022 Resolution Proposals process, for a resolution to be considered at the 2022 Legislative Issues Conference, it must be submitted to WASB's Policy and Resolutions Committee by September 15, 2021 or be submitted on the floor at the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, All WASB 2022 Resolution Proposals must be in the prescribed format used below; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors approve the following Resolution Proposal for inclusion in the 2022 MPS Legislative Agenda and for submission to the WASB Delegate Assembly; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board direct the Office of Board Governance to send a copy to WASB's Policy and Resolutions Committee for consideration on the floor during the Assembly.

-----PROPOSAL FOR THE 2022 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY-----

Subject: Curriculum and Professional Training on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders

Submitted by: Marcela (Xela) Garcia and Jilly Gokalgandhi, Milwaukee Board of School Directors

Resolution: Resolved that the Wisconsin Association of School Boards encourages Wisconsin public schools to develop an educational curriculum and professional training to teach the history, culture and contributions of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders to the economic, cultural and social development of Wisconsin and the USA.

Rationale:

"Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPI)" refers to those persons who trace their origins and ancestries back to the countries of East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia or the Pacific Islands. Wisconsin's recently released 2020 Census reports that there are 5.9 million people in Wisconsin, of which the largest group of 4.7 million (80%) self-identify as white, where the largest ethnic identities are known to be Germans, Irish, Polish, Norwegian, and English, and records that the AAPI (Asian American & Pacific Islander) population of 177,900+ people (3%), where the largest groups are Hmong/Lao, Asian Indian, and Chinese, primarily live in the counties of Milwaukee, Dane, Waukesha, Marathon, Brown and Sheboygan.

Between the 2010 to the 2020 Census periods, the population of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders in Wisconsin grew 36% from 131,061 to 177,901 (consistent with the nationwide trend of 35.5% growth) - faster than the entire state's growth of 3.6% from 5,686,986 to 5,893,718 people. This level of growth notwithstanding, the fact is that Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders have lived and worked in Wisconsin for over 100 years, and have greatly contributed to our state's rich history, culture, economy, and public service. Most notably:

- Southeast Asians (predominantly Hmong/Lao, Vietnamese, and Cambodian) came to Wisconsin as refugees starting in the mid-1970s having fought for the USA in the Secret War in Laos during the Vietnam War, with recent refugees coming from Burma/Myanmar ; and

- Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders have become elected leaders throughout the Midwest including – Mee Moua, Laos-born, Appleton-raised became Minnesota’s first Hmong American state senator; Kashoua Kristy Yang, Laos-born, Sheboygan-raised became the nation’s first elected Hmong American woman judge in Milwaukee County; Francesca Hong became the first AAPI and Korean American Wisconsin Assemblywoman; and

The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Delta variant have engendered the targeting of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders in WI and the USA with Anti-Asian hate and harassment (*Stop AAPI Hate* reports that the total number of anti-Asian hate incidents from March 2020 to June 2021 is 9,081 across the USA, with 4,533 in January-June 2021 alone).

In 2021 our state legislators have taken action to recognize the contributions of AAPI in Wisconsin, including:

- Passage of joint Resolution 48 by the State Legislature, by which May 2021 was recognized as Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month across Wisconsin, with bipartisan support;
- Passage of Assembly Bill 154 by both houses, which designated May 14 as Hmong-Lao Veterans Day on an annual basis, also with bipartisan support.

September 30, 2021