



County of Sonoma
State of California

Date: April 4, 2023

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Sonoma, State of California,
Congratulating Pedro Merino for his 30 years serving the community as an educator
and soccer coach at the Sonoma Valley Unified School District**

Whereas, Pedro Merino began serving the Sonoma Valley community as a Spanish teacher and soccer coach during the 1992-93 academic year at Sonoma Valley High School and has continued in both roles for the past 30 years; and

Whereas, a native of Mexico, Pedro was raised in San Francisco's Mission District and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in Spanish linguistics and Spanish/Hispanic literature from the University of California, Berkeley, obtained a teaching credential from the University of San Francisco, and a master's degree in language and culture from the University of Salamanca in Spain; and

Whereas, He began coaching soccer at the age of 15 and before moving to Sonoma, served as a coach and teacher in the San Francisco Unified School District and has been teaching all levels of Spanish classes and Advanced Placement Spanish/Hispanic Language and Culture, Advanced Placement Spanish/Hispanic Literature and Culture at Sonoma Valley High School; and

Whereas, Pedro Merino credits his success as an educator to his teaching of mutual respect, manners, fairness, equity, empathy, leading by example, and teaching the love of lifelong learning and as a coach to his philosophy to teach the soccer players to contribute and become better members of society not only as a team, but also as individuals; and

Whereas, some of the considerable accomplishments and recognitions in his tenure

include becoming the sponsor for the school's *Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica* (Spanish Honor Society) and *Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan* (MECHA), has twice been named one of the district's annual Inspirational Teachers of the Year and named [Sonoma County League Boys Soccer Coach of the Year](#) four times; and

Whereas, Pedro Merino was also an excellent soccer player. At Lowell High School, he was a high school All-American and was named to the San Francisco AAA League All-City First Team three times, he was named the most valuable player for Lowell three times and the most valuable defensive player during his senior year, and a member of the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame in soccer, swimming, and diving; and

Whereas A four-year starter on U.C. Berkeley's soccer team, Pedro was named to the All-Pacific West Team and received honorable mention for All-American honors and is one of the top five scorers in the history of U.C. Berkeley's men's soccer; and

Whereas, Pedro Merino saw and felt the need to close the educational gap, (to strengthen) the representation of academic standards for all students, as well as to create an academic and student-athlete soccer culture that was highly competitive with other schools, public or private. He has been a constant presence in the lives of so many students and athletes over his career. He loves what he does, and it gives him so much pleasure to share the Spanish speaking world with his students. His main strength is the connection that he builds with students and his focus on supporting students both in and out of the classroom.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma do hereby congratulate and thank Pedro Merino for his 30 years of service as an educator and coach at the Sonoma Valley Unified School District.

Be It Further Resolved

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Date:

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Supervisors:

Gorin:

Rabbitt:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Coursey:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.