



County of Sonoma
State of California

Date: May 30, 2023

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Sonoma, State of California,
Recognizing Dunbar Elementary School for over 166 years serving the community in
the Sonoma Valley Unified School District**

WHEREAS, Dunbar School was established in 1857 in what would become the village of Glen Ellen, in a converted chicken coop donated by Alexander Dunbar, with five of his own children among the first students (as the story goes); and

WHEREAS, Dunbar School established a tradition, from the start, of providing top-notch education to local youngsters under the guidance of skilled and indomitable teachers with remarkable penmanship; and

WHEREAS, even as the various one-room schoolhouses scattered across the northern Sonoma Valley burned down, or were swept away in floods, or were closed due to dwindling enrollment, Dunbar School endured and became known as Dunbar Union School; and

WHEREAS, in 1930, Dunbar's present campus, located under the oaks in the loveliest school setting in the Valley, began to take shape, and in 1959 was brought under the umbrella of the newly minted Sonoma Valley Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, over its long history, Dunbar has consistently provided not only the basics of a good education — reading, writing, and arithmetic — but also cultivated the arts, including the Fifth-Grade Play, a melodrama with a 25-year run, a garden program that grew for decades, and a plethora of students who have excelled as scientists, writers, explorers, and thinkers, including our current national poet laureate; and

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WHEREAS, Dunbar scholars, in modern times, have not only survived wildfire, pandemic, and distance learning, but have thrived through the hardest of times within the embrace of the school's kind, caring, and supportive community; and

WHEREAS, after 166 years of stellar scholarship and uncompromising service Dunbar Elementary School will close at the end of the 2022-2023 school year; and

WHEREAS, Dunbar has been, and will always be, beloved by its expansive student, staff, and booster alumni.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma do hereby celebrate the indelible legacy of Dunbar School, the best little country school ever.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Rabbitt:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Coursey:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.