FREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Date of Board Meeting: October 26, 2011

TITLE: Adopt Resolution No. 026-1112 Proclaiming November 2011 as Sikh Awareness Month

Background:
There are an estimated 200,000 Americans of Sikh origin in California. Sikh immigrants have resided in California for more than a century. They are believed to have labored on railroad construction projects, in lumber mills, and in the agricultural heartlands of Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys. The first Sikh temple in California was established in Stockton in 1912. Fremont is enriched with its large population of Sikh and Punjabi Americans. Fremont’s Gudwara (temple) is the second largest in the United States where they provide help to the homeless and needy people around the world.

Current Status:
Fremont Unified School District Board of Education recognizes the significant contribution made by the Californians of Sikh heritage to our State and wishes to acknowledge them with the adoption of this resolution.

Budget Impact:
Amount: N/A  Funding Source/Account: N/A

Policy Implications:
This proposed action is consistent with existing Board of Education Policy 6115 and supports Board of Education Tenet number five, which reads, “Education must focus on the complete student, not just on academic skills development, but also on the creation of healthy bodies, responsible citizens, lifelong learners, dreamers and innovators”.

Recommendation:
Adopt Resolution No. 026-1112 proclaiming November 2011 as Sikh Awareness Month.

Approved: Approved:
James Morris, Superintendent                         Deborah Sims, Assistant Superintendent

Prepared and Presented by:
Debbie Amundson/659-2596                         Elementary Education Department
Name/Phone
Staff Contact Person                         Instruction Division
WHEREAS, California and our nation are enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our residents: and

WHEREAS, Among this unprecedented diversity in California, there reside an estimated 200,000 Americans of Sikh origin, comprising nearly 40 percent of the nation’s estimated Sikh population: and

WHEREAS, Sikh immigrants have resided in California for more than a century, with the first Sikh immigrants believed to have labored on railroad construction projects, in lumber mills, and in the agricultural heartlands of the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys: and

WHEREAS, The first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in California was established in Stockton in 1912, and Sikh temples have since been established in communities throughout California: and

WHEREAS, While Sikh Americans have distinguished themselves in numerous areas of endeavor, they have demonstrated particular success in the areas of agriculture, trucking, medicine, and in the creation of family-owned businesses: and

WHEREAS, Fremont, California boasts one of the largest confirmed populations of Sikh and Punjabi Americans in the nation and Fremont’s Gurdwara is the second largest in the United States where they provide help to the homeless and needy people around the world, especially during disasters: and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fremont Unified School District Board of Education recognizes and acknowledges the significant contribution made by the Californians of Sikh heritage to our state and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all Fremont residents the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principle of Sikh Americans, their religion and the tenets of their faith, and the important role that Sikh Americans play in furthering mutual understanding and respect among all peoples.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of October 2011, by the Fremont Unified School District Board of Education.

____________________________________  ____________________________________  
Bryan Gebhardt, President,  Lily Mei, Vice President

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Ivy Wu, Clerk  Larry Sweeney, Member

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Ivy Wu, Member  Allison Tong, Student Board Member