

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

RESOLUTION 20/21-61

*A Call to Action on Climate Change
in Recognition of Earth Day*

AS we traverse our wondrous Earth, admiring its abundance, appreciating its provision, seeing its diversity of life, witnessing the mystery of the starry heavens above, and hearing whispered echoes of eternity in the timeless cycles that surround us, recognizing herein that the present day has afforded us, humanity, a unique ability among all creatures to look ahead, to prepare for the future, and to preserve life, seeing now plainly the dire threat to this all that is climate change, we believe that the people and leaders of the world, and we the people of the United States of America, with great responsibility to fellow countries, mankind, and future generations derived from our present power and scope of influence, *can and must seize every opportunity* to act and advocate for actions and policies leading to climate restoration and the sustainability of our planet for generations to come; and

WHEREAS the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions, and all elected leaders; and

WHEREAS we believe that local, state, and national climate policies should be guided by the best available science, rejecting the false notion that climate change is a partisan issue; and

WHEREAS there has been and still is broad, international scientific consensus among climate scientists and researchers that human activities, contributing to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, are the dominant cause of climate change; and

WHEREAS the current climate trajectory, on the general basis of compounding greenhouse gasses, would bring about a, “point of no return,” in the lifetime of our children’s children, for whom we are responsible in light of our present understanding; and

WHEREAS the effects and risks of climate change are also a social justice and equity issue, where people in poverty and populations with higher exposure to toxic or hazardous environments are disproportionately affected, thereby exacerbating existing racial and socioeconomic inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America; and

WHEREAS we in Mt. Diablo Unified School District take to heart, with great conviction, our opportunity to educate and prepare students for the challenges of the modern world, and as an organization, to celebrate, advance, and recommit to these district sustainability initiatives:

- Encouragement of environmental K-12 education and climate science
- Creation of edible gardens on campuses and utilizing them in place-based teaching
- Installation of solar panels across our district, generating eleven megawatts of clean energy annually
- Improvement of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems by replacing aged and inefficient heating/ventilating equipment with high efficiency heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems
- Installation of modern LED lighting to broadly reduce energy consumption
- District-wide installation of water filters to support clean water and installation of low flow water fixtures and water filtration systems (bottle fillers)
- Utilization of health-conscious pesticide and chemical products in groundskeeping processes to reduce exposure to pesticides, herbicides and fungicides
- Implementation of drought-tolerant landscapes

- Use of environmentally sensitive building materials in new buildings and retrofits to existing buildings, as well as efficient use of energy, water, and other resources in accordance with the CalGREEN building code
- Implementation of a comprehensive waste reduction, recycling, and composting program at schools, including the encouragement of on-site composting and the reduction of plastic usage
- Provision of equitable access to nature and natural systems within the school grounds to take advantage of the cognitive, psychological and physiological benefits of nature on children’s socio emotional, academic and physical well-being
- Transition of district systems and transportation fleet to 100% electric or alternative and renewable energy sources
- Creation of ecological schoolyards that enrich traditional lessons in every discipline with hands-on learning resources and living systems whenever possible
- Encouragement for the integration of all the items within this resolution into school culture and curriculum, allowing each school campus to become a living working model of climate change education; and

WHEREAS national and state elected leaders have the ability to enact carbon pricing policies that would reduce human-made greenhouse gas emissions, the ability to approve infrastructure investments that advance sustainability and alternative energy, and the ability to approve laws that meet or exceed international emission regulatory standards,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board of Education hereby recognizes April 22, 2021 as Earth Day, seeing fit this occasion to reaffirm our commitment to be a part of climate change solutions and to educate our students for the furtherance of the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board of Education calls on all elected leaders to take expedient and bold action on climate change to protect and preserve current and future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education directs the district clerk to transmit executed copies of this resolution to the Superintendent of County Schools, the State Superintendent of Education and the California State Board of Education, the Congressional Climate Solutions Caucus, the California State School Board Association, the National School Board Association, our state and national representatives in Sacramento and Washington D.C., and the Schools for Climate Action campaign.

AYES: NOES: ABSENCES: ABSTENTIONS:

Cherise Khaund, Board President

Debra Mason, Board Vice President

Linda Mayo, Board Member

Erin McFerrin, Board Member

Keisha Nzewi, Board Member

Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent

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Adopted at the meeting of the MDUSD Governing Board of Education on 04/14/2021
