

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

RESOLUTION No. 20/21-60

CALIFORNIA ADULT EDUCATION WEEK, APRIL 18 – 24, 2021

WHEREAS, from April 18th through April 24th the State of California will observe Adult Education Week, recognizing the unique accomplishments of California Adult Schools; and

WHEREAS, the California State Senate acknowledges that K12 Adult Schools offer quality programs meeting ever-changing economic, workforce and lifelong learning needs of our diverse state; and

WHEREAS, the first recorded adult education class in California was held in the basement of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco in 1856 and authorized by the San Francisco Board of Education to teach English to Irish, Italian, and Chinese immigrants. John Swett, who was the first volunteer teacher for the class, later became a State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, students served through Adult Education deal with illiteracy, poverty and high unemployment and are the most negatively impacted group when the state faces economic, social, and health challenges, most recently seen through the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools have been utilized on numerous occasions to assist the state with significant social, political, and economic issues through job training programs during World War II, immigration reform of the 1980s, and most recently, the Great Recession; and

WHEREAS, Adult education in California overcame its biggest challenge as a result of the severe economic crisis (the Great Recession) facing both the state and the nation in 2008-2009. Funding that was previously reserved for adult education was redistributed to other levels of education in the state, resulting in many adult schools decreasing in size and some closing; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 600,000 adult learners enrolled in ESL classes at adult schools across California that are in the age-range to have children in our public school system. The impact of adult education is felt across generations, particularly for early childhood learners who have been characterized as a priority of the Governor and Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools are a primary community resource for the teaching and instruction of adult literacy working in collaboration with community colleges, community centers and libraries; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools provide a way for adults to complete secondary studies and obtain a high school diploma and equivalency at their own pace and to prepare for and transition to post-secondary education and career training; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools provide critical opportunities to bring people who are unable to earn a high school diploma back to school; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools provide instruction to those in the state who need English as a Second Language and Citizenship courses and plays a key role in the immigrant integration and path to US Citizenship, which is important for our diverse communities and in this time of immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools, recognizing that to break the cycle of illiteracy and to support educational equity for all our children we must focus on educating parents, provide programs in Family Literacy at elementary schools in conjunction with community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools provide short-term career and technical training for adults seeking changes or enhancements in their career pathway; and

WHEREAS, Amid the COVID-19 global pandemic in 2019-2020, **Mt. Diablo Adult Education** served 516 students in the High School Diploma and High School Equivalency (HSE) Programs and 31 students earned their high school diploma, and 13 students earned their High School Equivalency (HSE) in the 2019-20 school year, helping reduce the High School drop-out rate in Contra Costa; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Diablo Adult Education served 1,951 students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program in the 2019-20 school year, and parents enrolled in ESL classes learn how to assist their children with school work and dedicate several hours a year tutoring their own children; and

WHEREAS, amid the current COVID-19 global pandemic, **Mt. Diablo Adult Education** continues to provide critical programming and services to our adult education students and their families via literacy and basic skills to help ensure our K12 students are successful as they navigate the challenge of distance learning to finish the current 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, amid the current COVID-19 pandemic **Mt. Diablo Adult Education** provides important short-term career training programs, including for critical healthcare positions, to address both short and long-term impacts, responding to Governor Newsom’s charge to meet the moment and address the needs of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools in California were saved from closure state-wide in 2015 as a result of the establishment of the California Adult Education Program by the Legislature and Administration, which continues to restore access and programs for adult learners through regional planning and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Diablo Adult Education is a diverse place of learning for students, safe from discrimination or bullying regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or socio-economic status; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Board of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District hereby proclaims April 18 - 24, 2021, as ADULT EDUCATION WEEK and salutes the teachers, administrators, classified staff, and students of adult education programs statewide, honoring their efforts, persistence and accomplishments.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of April 2021, by the following vote:

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

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