

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Morgan Hill, California

Resolution

Resolution Affirming a Commitment to Environmental Stewardship

WHEREAS, there is broad scientific consensus that pollution of air, land and oceans, excessive carbon emissions, destruction of natural habitats and loss of biodiversity poses a significant threat to earth and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, environmental stewardship is the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices; and

WHEREAS schools have the potential to make positive, tangible environmental change in the world while teaching students to be stewards of their communities, the earth, and its resources; and

WHEREAS, implementing environmentally friendly practices within school communities and access to nature can increase the overall health and well-being of students and their families; and

WHEREAS, schools expend considerable financial resources on energy, water, refuse services, food, supplies, infrastructure and have an opportunity through their purchasing power to improve both the environment and their financial bottom line; and

WHEREAS, options exist for schools and their staff to use natural resources more efficiently; to reduce, reuse, and recycle; to produce more sustainably sourced lunches, and to purchase clean energy and environmentally preferable products and supplies to protect our environment; and

WHEREAS, the schools and District seek opportunities to partner with local environmental organizations and public agencies to engage students in environmental stewardship activities on local public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Morgan Hill Unified School District has already taken significant measures in support of green school practices, energy efficiency, healthy school nutrition programs, and waste diversion/reduction;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Morgan Hill Unified School District hereby supports:

- continued implementation and expansion of the District-wide plan to improve the energy efficiency of schools (e.g. solar photovoltaic systems, lighting, window replacement, insulation, weatherization, efficient equipment, and technology to effectively manage energy use); and
- increased reliance on clean, renewable energy sources to power the District's facilities; and
- assurance that new buildings and retrofits to existing buildings use environmentally sensitive building materials, bird safe design, and efficient use of energy, water, and other resources; and
- an evaluation of the existing transit system to maximize efficiency and reduce the total vehicle emissions in getting students to and from school; and

- continued advocacy and coordination of programs and infrastructure to enhance biking and walking to school through the Safe Routes to School program; and
- continued efforts to implement a comprehensive waste reduction, recycling, and composting program at all schools; and
- evaluation of sustainability improvement options for the school lunch program (e.g. more locally sourced and/or organic foods, healthier options, less processed food, less waste in packaging); and
- sustainable landscaping practices that reduce water use and stormwater runoff, minimize unnatural treatments and chemical inputs, and provide habitat for native flora and fauna; and
- advocacy for and preservation of local open space and natural terrain for the enjoyment of students and families and improved flood control, fire mitigation and habitat conservation; and
- development of environmental curriculum to integrate Next Generation Science Standards and educate students on sustainability and environmental literacy; and
- continued support of the environmental science academy and articulation of environmental curriculum strands through the high schools; and
- education and engagement of parents and the community about District sustainability efforts and the impacts of pollution and other environmental threats on the health and future welfare of children; and
- advocacy among local, state and national policymakers to substantially reduce environmental threats and mitigate their impacts on children's health and wellbeing.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT at a regular meeting held on April 23, 2019 by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

DATED: _____

SIGNED: _____

Mary Patterson, President
Board of Education

I, Steve Betando, Secretary of the Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT at the regular meeting on April 23, 2019 which resolution is on file in the office of said Board.

DATED: _____

SIGNED: _____

Steve Betando, Secretary
Board of Education