

ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Alameda, California
Resolution

November 12, 2019

Resolution No. 2019-2020.16

Resolution Calling For Climate Crisis Response for Alameda Students, Families, and the Community

WHEREAS, it is important to advocate for climate action leading to climate restoration to curtail one of the greatest threats facing communities throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is an unbiased, non-partisan issue and that local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and,

WHEREAS, there is broad consensus among scientists that human activities, contributing to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, are the dominant cause of the climate crisis; and,

WHEREAS, children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and,

WHEREAS, in light of recent climate-related wildfires which caused mass destruction, as well as loss of life, more than 50 school boards and student councils nationwide have passed non-partisan climate action resolutions; and,

WHEREAS, the California PTA has declared climate change a children's issue; and,

WHEREAS, the Alameda Unified School District Board of Education (“Board of Education”) recognizes the climate crisis as a social justice and equity issue which disproportionately impacts people of color and people in poverty, therefore exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity; and,

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

WHEREAS, there is still time to lessen the magnitude of the climate crisis and mitigate its worst effects; and,

WHEREAS, the AUSD Board of Education celebrates existing district sustainability initiatives such as the Green Schools Resolution, environmental literacy curriculum, resource use reduction, zero waste, school gardens, energy efficiency, and the Alameda Green School Challenge which aims to reduce the amount of garbage AUSD sends to landfills, which won a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association in 2014; and,

WHEREAS, the AUSD Board of Education recognizes that student voice and opinion is critical in combating the climate crisis and values and utilizes student input in the solutions addressing the climate emergency; and,

WHEREAS, the AUSD Board of Education recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on its and America's schools, students, and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the AUSD Board of Education declares that a climate emergency threatens our students, families, schools, city, region, state, nation, and humanity; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AUSD Board of Education calls on Congress and our State Legislature, in order to restore the climate to protect young people and future generations, to swiftly enact common-sense state and national climate policies, such as:

- revenue-neutral carbon-fee-and-dividend;
- 100% clean energy transition plans that include safety nets and training for transitioning workers;
- green infrastructure and technology investments;

- investments in forestry and regenerative agriculture to draw down CO2 from the atmosphere and sequester in soils and biomass;
- investments in environmental education and other policies that combat this urgent threat to our students and their families; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AUSD Board of Education will strive to achieve annual reductions in carbon emissions produced through district operations with the goal to be carbon neutral by 2030; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AUSD Board of Education directs district leadership to review and update policies and practices needed to combat the climate crisis equitably district-wide to ensure a collective response to the climate crisis in our schools on all levels of organization, such as prioritizing green decision making in the Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities (MOF) department, educational programs and curricula focused on climate science, the new green economy, environmental justice, community building for resilience, environmental stewardship, and climate restoration; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AUSD Board of Education directs district leadership to seek partnerships with local student environmental groups, business leaders, nonprofits, and government agencies and organizations (such as CASA Youth) to promote climate education in our classrooms, sustainable practices in district operations, and focus on climate-resilient district decision making; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AUSD Board of Education establishes quarterly district-wide meetings that include students, parents, teachers, staff, district leadership (including representatives from the Teaching and Learning, Fiscal, and MOF departments) to establish goals, develop programs, seek funding, and ensure accountability for swift action in response to the climate crisis within the purview of the District, such as targets for reducing district greenhouse gas emissions and resource consumption, an increase in climate literacy amongst students and staff, continued development of school gardens and green schoolyards, environmental stewardship that protects clean water, air, and soil, with data collection to track progress and board reports to celebrate progress; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AUSD Board of Education directs the district to assign a representative to serve on the City of Alameda Green Team to partner with the city in its response to the climate crisis and its implementation of the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan in areas such as safe walking and biking routes to school, climate emergency preparedness planning, greenhouse gas reductions, and community outreach; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AUSD Board of Education directs the District clerk to transmit official copies of this resolution to the Alameda County Office of Education, the State Superintendent of Education, and the California State Board of Education, the California School Boards Association, the National School Boards Association, our state and national representatives in Sacramento and Washington D.C., and the Schools for Climate Action campaign.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of November, 2019.

AYES: _____ MEMBERS: _____

NOES: _____ MEMBERS: _____

ABSENT: _____ MEMBERS: _____

 Mialisa Bonta, President
 Board of Education
 Alameda Unified School District
 Alameda County, State of California

ATTEST:

By: _____
 Pasquale Scuderi, Secretary
 Board of Education
 Alameda Unified School District
 Alameda County, State of California