Inspire School of Arts & Sciences

Climate Change Resolution

WHEREAS, we believe America is a great nation and has proud heritage of addressing humanity’s most pressing problems; and,

WHEREAS, we believe 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, we believe that climate change is not a partisan issue and that local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and,

WHEREAS, there is a broad scientific consensus among climate scientists that human activities, contributing to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, are the dominant cause of climate change; 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 2015 the California PTA has declared climate change a children’s issue; and

WHEREAS, the Inspire School of Arts & Sciences School Board recognizes climate change as a generational human rights issue; and,

WHEREAS, climate change impacts *all* people and disproportionately impacts *all* young people and future generations; and,

WHEREAS, the environmental and human catastrophe caused by the Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, had a devastating effect on local health, public safety, air quality, water quality, infrastructure, services, economic base, and mental health of displaced individuals; and

WHEREAS, severe rainfall in February 2017 across northern and central California resulted in at least five deaths and an estimated $1.5 billion in damage; this accelerated the structural faults in design and construction of the Oroville Dam spillway, and resulted in a multi-day evacuation of 188,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, 21 youth claimants are currently asserting a constitutional right for a livable climate in the *Juliana v. U.S.* case currently in federal courts and dozens of other youth claimants are making similar claims in state courts around the country; 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, national and state elected leaders working in a bipartisan fashion to enact carbon pricing policies could substantially reduce human-made greenhouse gas emissions, thereby protecting our current and future students; and,

WHEREAS, we work to ensure that all Inspire School of Arts & Sciences students graduate as scientifically literate; and,

WHEREAS the Inspire School of Arts & Sciences School Board celebrates existing district sustainability initiatives such as:

1. Campus recycling programs
2. Sponsorship of student environmental-focused clubs
3. Teachers who are committed to teaching rigorous science-based curriculum around climate change

WHEREAS, the Inspire School of Arts and Sciences School Board recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on America’s schools, students, and their communities.

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT, Inspire School of Arts & Sciences School Board shall direct the Principal/Superintendent to establish a Climate Change Student Committee to develop recommendations for taking action on climate change that are within the purview of the school, such as:

1. curricular and educational opportunities such as climate literacy, climate advocacy, and climate justice curriculum and graduation requirements;
2. facilities and operational priorities and projects including transportation, purchasing, maintenance, landscaping, and construction;
3. climate-friendly food service: including initiatives to increase plant-based and lower meat recipe menu planning and food waste reduction programs;
4. targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon budgeting; and,
5. engagement and non-partisan advocacy with local, state and federal jurisdictions for commonsense climate policies that protect current and future students.

The Committee shall be chaired by students and open to participation by board members, administration, staff, parents, students, and community members, and shall provide reports of its activities to the School Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Inspire School of Arts & Sciences School Board calls on Congress to swiftly enact commonsense national climate policies, in order to restore the climate to protect young people and future generations. .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Inspire School of Arts & Sciences School Board directs the Principal/Superintendent to transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: the staff, the student body, families, the Inspire Foundation, the State Superintendent of Education, the California State Board of Education, the Congressional Climate Solutions Caucus, the California School Boards Association, the National School Board Association, the National Association of School Psychologists, all California members of Congress, and Schools for Climate Action.