

**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD AGENDA BACKUP**

**Regular Meeting of May 22, 2018**

**ITEM:**                   **RESOLUTION 2017-18-23: ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S  
COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION, 2018**

**PREPARED BY:**   **VAL WILLIAMS, SUPERINTENDENT**

**TYPE OF ITEM:**   **REVIEW & ACTION**

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**PURPOSE:** The Board of Trustees to review and approve Resolution 2017-18-23: Albany Unified School District's Commitment to Climate Change Action, 2018

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In 2015 the California PTA has declared climate change a children's issue, and in 2016 the Albany City Council passed a resolution reflecting the importance of climate change and calling for the United States Congress to enact a revenue-neutral carbon tax. AHS teacher, Christopher Knight, and a group of AUSD parents are members of the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) which is a volunteer-based organization that is concerned about climate change. CCL promotes a policy known as carbon fee and dividend, which is essentially a tax on fossil fuels with all monies raised returned to households.

The Albany Unified School District is committed to sustainability efforts in order to reduce its carbon footprint on the environment. AUSD created a Sustainability and Integrated Design Committee to work in partnership with the District as we rebuild/renovate our schools. The proposed resolution supports AUSD's commitment to advocate for climate restoration and to support a healthy climate for our children.

**KEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

**Q:** What will happen to this resolution?

**A:** The resolution, if passed, will be sent to local and state politicians.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:** N/A

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED:**



***Objective #1: Assess and Increase Academic Success. Goal: We will provide a comprehensive educational experience with expanded opportunities for engagement, assessment, and academic growth***

*so that all students will achieve their fullest potential.*



**Objective #2:** *Support the Whole Child. Goal: We will foster the social and emotional growth of all students, implement an array of strategies to increase student engagement, identify individual socio-emotional and behavioral needs, and apply collaborative appropriate interventions.*



**Objective #3:** *Communicate and Lead Together. Goal: All stakeholders will collaborate and communicate about decisions that guide the sites and district.*

**RECOMMENDATION: The Board of Trustees to Approve Resolution 2017-18-23: Albany Unified School District's Commitment to Climate Change Action, 2018**

**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION 2017-18-23: ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S  
COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION, 2018**

**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 nor political 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 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;

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 the Albany City Council passed a resolution reflecting the importance of climate change and calling for the United States Congress to enact a revenue-neutral carbon tax;

**WHEREAS**, the AUSD Board of Education recognizes climate change as a generational justice and human rights issue; and,

**WHEREAS**, climate change is a social justice and equity issue. While climate change impacts *all* people and disproportionately impacts *all* young people and *all* future generations, it disproportionately affects people of color and people in poverty, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America;

**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 or eliminate net human-made greenhouse gas emissions, thereby protecting our current and future students; and,

**WHEREAS**, we work to ensure that AUSD provides excellent public education that empowers all to achieve their fullest potential as productive citizens.

**WHEREAS**, AUSD celebrates existing district sustainability initiatives such as:

- a. Campus recycling programs
- b. Sponsorship of student environmental-focused clubs
- c. Energy-efficient building design, including the new LEED-certified building to be constructed at the high school
- d. Teachers that are committed to teaching a rigorous, science-based curriculum around climate change

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the AUSD Board of Education calls on Congress to take swift and effective action on climate change by passing a revenue-neutral carbon tax and dividend policy to protect current and future students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the AUSD Board of Education directs the district clerk to transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: the Superintendent of County Schools, all student councils in our district in neighboring districts, the Albany Teacher’s Association, all district PTA’s, all county Superintendents of Schools, the State Superintendent of Education, the Congressional Climate Solutions Caucus, the California State School Board Association, the National School Board Association, all California members of Congress, and the Schools for Climate Action campaign.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Albany Unified School District on this \_\_\_th day of May 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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Clerk of the Board of Trustees  
Albany Unified School District  
Alameda County, California