

Resolution

MONTEREY PENINSULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NUMBER 18/19-20

Endorsing Policies and Practices that Address the Negative Impacts of Climate Change

May 28, 2019

WHEREAS, climate change is one of the most critical existential issues threatening long-term human and environmental health, social well-being, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, there is broad consensus among scientists that human activity has contributed to increased greenhouse gas emissions, which is the dominant cause of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will have disastrous impacts on our planet, precipitating warmer global temperatures, elevated sea levels, acidification of the oceans, catastrophic heat waves, diminished biodiversity, intensified storms, prolonged droughts, yearlong wildfires, and shrinking Arctic ice; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Bay region is especially vulnerable to such environmental impacts, particularly the destruction of our local agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a social justice and equity issue because it disproportionately impacts young people, people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income individuals, people with disabilities, and those with inadequate or no housing; and

WHEREAS, if unaddressed, the consequences of a changing climate have the potential to harm productivity in key economic sectors such as construction, agriculture, and tourism, saddling future generations with costly economic and environmental burdens, diminished quality of life, and imposing additional costs on local, state, and federal budgets; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for policies at the local, State, and Federal level that address the nation's urgent climate change needs and impacts by implementing policies that cultivate equity and justice in its solutions; and

WHEREAS, the threats of climate change demand the focus and commitment of everyone, including local governments, school boards, special districts, and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District has adopted Board Goals that include the design or redesign facilities and their grounds to be high quality, energy-efficient, safe, and sustainable; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District has been a leader in conservation strategies and, since the establishment of MPUSD’s Energy Program in 2013, has reduced energy use across the district by 18.9%, reduced natural gas use by 31% and reduced water use by 51.2%; and

WHEREAS, MPUSD’s energy reductions are equivalent to removing 4528 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or 943 cars from the road a year or planting 116,120 trees and growing them for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, MPUSD’s water conservation reduced use by 394,336,000 gallons or the equivalent to removing 597 Olympic size swimming pools; and

WHEREAS, MPUSD’s solar panels reduced its carbon footprint by generating green energy which is equivalent to removing 1127 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, or removing 214 cars from the road, or planting 31,245 trees and growing them for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, a growing list of Monterey Bay elected leaders, cities, districts, and counties have expressed support for policies and practices that address climate change, calling for the rapid scale-up and conversion to widespread consumption of renewable energy production;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District commits to working constructively to create and support economically viable and broadly supported private and public solutions to study and address the causes and effects of measured changes to our global and regional climates, including mitigation efforts and efforts to balance human activities that have been found to have an impact.

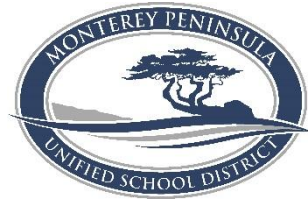
Adopted on the Twenty-Eighth Day of May 2019

Tom Jennings, Board President

Debra Gramespacher, Board Member

Dr. Bettye Lusk, Board Member

Wendy Root Askew, Board Member



Dr. Jonathan Hill, Board Vice-President

Alana Myles, Board Member

Wendy Root Askew, Board Member

Dr. PK Diffenbaugh, Superintendent