

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
COTATI-ROHNERT PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**RESOLUTION 1819-14
RESOLUTION FOR COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE ACTION**

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

WHEREAS, there is a broad scientific consensus among 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 generationsⁱ;

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, the Sonoma County Office of Education has encouraged local districts to engage in non-partisan climate advocacy and 29 school boards in California, Colorado, New York, and Virginia have passed climate action resolutions;

WHEREAS, in 2015 the California PTA has declared climate change a children's issue;

WHEREAS, the Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School Board 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 future generations, it disproportionately affects people of color and people in poverty, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunityⁱⁱ;

WHEREAS, 21 youth plaintiffs 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 Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District students graduate as climate literate citizens;

WHEREAS, the Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School Board celebrates and commends existing district sustainability initiatives such as:

- a. Course Offerings including AP Environmental Science, Project Lead the Way, and Environmental Sustainability
- b. Student Clubs
- c. Recycling
- d. Signage promoting sustainability and awareness
- e. Energy Conservation and Energy Saving Practices

WHEREAS, the students of Rancho Cotate and Technology High School recognize and understand 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, the Board of the Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District shall ask the Superintendent to collaborate with key stakeholders to establish a Climate Change Committee to develop recommendations for taking action on climate change that are within the purview of the District, such as:

- (a) curricular and educational opportunities such as climate literacy, climate advocacy, and climate justice curriculum;
- (b) facilities and operational priorities and projects including transportation, purchasing, maintenance, landscaping, and construction;
- (c) climate-friendly food service: including initiatives to increase plant-based and lower meat recipe menu planning and food waste reduction programs;
- (d) targets for reducing District greenhouse gas emissions and carbon budgeting; and,
- (e) 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 open to participation by any student within the district or the district's independent charter. The committee shall provide an annual report of its activities to the Board of Trustees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cotati Rohnert Park United School Board calls on Congress to take swift and effective action on climate change to protect current and future students.

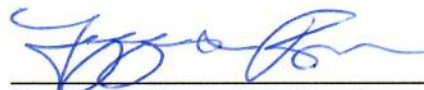
NOW THEREFORE, that the Board of Trustees directs the district clerk to transmit official copies of this resolution to the Superintendent of County Schools.

The foregoing Resolution was introduced by Trustee Nonn who moved its adoption, seconded by Trustee Gillies and adopted on March 19, 2019, by the following vote:

Trustee Brown	<u>YES</u>
Trustee Cimino	<u>YES</u>
Trustee Gillies	<u>YES</u>
Trustee Nonn	<u>YES</u>
Trustee Wiltermood	<u>YES</u>

WHEREUPON the President declared the foregoing resolution adopted and

SO ORDERED



President, Governing Board

ⁱ Sources: Climate Communication, "Heat Waves: The Details," last accessed March, 2018.
<https://www.climatecommunication.org/new/features/heat-waves-and-climate-change/heat-waves-the-details/>

John Balbus, et al., "Climate and Health Assessment Chapter 1: Climate Change and Human Health," (The US Global Change Research Program, 2016). <https://health2016.globalchange.gov/climate-change-and-human-health>

ⁱⁱ Sources: Fagliano JA, Diez Roux AV. Climate change, urban health, and the promotion of health equity (2018).
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002621>

Barry S. Levy, Jonathan A. Patz, "Climate Change, Human Rights, and Social Justice". U.S. National Library of Medicine. 81(3) (2015).