

Schools for Climate Action

For Immediate Release

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Fourth Local School Board Speaks Up for Climate Action to Protect Current and Future Students

2nd Official Carbon Pricing Mention by Any School Board in the Nation?

On Tuesday, February 13, 2018, the Trustees of the Sonoma Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) unanimously passed [Resolution #18-24: Commitment to Climate Change Action](#).

Modeled after the Sonoma County Office of Education resolution of 2.1.18, the SVUSD “Commitment to Climate Change Action” recognizes climate change as a “human issue” and states that the urgency and magnitude of climate change requires leadership from “all leaders and all institutions”. Furthermore, the resolution states that “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.” This may be the 2nd official mention about carbon pricing as a policy tool by any school board in the nation. Furthermore, the Trustees of SVUSD urge “local schools to engage in non-partisan advocacy and engagement with local, state, and federal jurisdictions advocating for reducing the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.”

Schools for Climate Action co-founder, 14-year old Lola G. commented, “as a member of a generation that will bear a great burden of climate change, it makes me really optimistic to see adults taking action and breaking the spiral of silence around climate change. I was thrilled to hear about this resolution.”

There are 14,000 school boards in the country with roughly 90,000 school board members. To date, Schools for Climate Action has found [nine school boards](#) consisting of about 45 school board members who have spoken up for action to address climate change as a children’s issue or to protect students. Schools for Climate Action notices a disconnect between school board discourse about climate change and the magnitude of the lifetime risk of harm due to climate change that current and future students will face. Schools for Climate Action believes there may be a [spiral of silence](#) effect at work.

“School board members like those brave Trustees of Sonoma Valley Union School District, the Sonoma County Office of Education, the Sebastopol Union and

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Ross Valley school districts help break the spiral of silence on climate change and drive a paradigm shift that may help build public will for science-based climate policies to protect all children. Conversely, silence about the fact that climate change is a generational justice issue may be dangerous and may diminish the possibilities and quality of life of current and future students. As the only elected leaders with a singular focus on the well-being and future success of children, all 90,000 school board members in the nation can speak up,” explained Park Guthrie, a 6th grade teacher and Schools for Climate Action co-founder. “Passing climate change resolutions helps close feedback loops between those who nurture our children (schools and school leaders) and those who create climate policy (Members of Congress and state legislatures). If enough school boards speak up about generational climate justice like Sebastopol Union School District, Ross Valley School District, Sonoma County Office of Education, and now Sonoma Valley Unified School District have done, this great nation may yet be able to muster our creativity, knowledge, and resources to address the issue in a swift and effective manner.”

Schools for Climate Action is a non-partisan, grassroots, volunteer, youth-adult campaign started by a group of students, parents, and teachers in western Sonoma. They have a mission to empower school communities to speak up for climate action in order to protect current and future students. Currently, there are Schools for Climate Action supporters working on local school board and student council climate resolutions in more than 14 public school districts and independent schools in California. In addition, there are Schools for Climate Action supporters working on climate change resolutions in public school districts in Ohio and Colorado.

Please join the Schools for Climate Action campaign at our Working Summit on Sunday, March 11th from 2-4 at the Sebastopol Grange. We also hold monthly virtual meetings on the 2nd Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 Pacific Time. Details on our website.

For more information about [Schools for Climate Action](#), please contact Park Guthrie at park.guthrie.jr@gmail.com or (510) 691-5051 or visit our website at

www.schoolsforclimateaction.weebly.com

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