

SONOMA ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES CALL TO CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION, 2019

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, 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, 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, the Sonoma Academy Board of Trustees 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 opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America;

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, the Sonoma Academy Board of Trustees recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on America's schools, students, and their communities.

WHEREAS in our pursuit of a sustainable future, Sonoma Academy seeks constant improvement by the sharing of knowledge, linking long-term sustainable considerations with ethical responsibility, and reestablishing the integral relationship between natural processes and human activity.

WHEREAS we have committed and Board-approved guiding sustainability principles that include:

- Consciously looking for opportunities to extend the principles of social and emotional intelligence to include knowledge of and empathy for all living systems and embed these principles in our curriculum.
- Staff, faculty, and students explore the natural world with which we are interconnected. We construct feedback loops to observe and analyze how the choices we make impact the natural world.
- Our operating policies and daily acts reflect our commitment to sustainability.
- We grow, gather, and savor food from our school garden.
- We learn where our food comes from and become friends with the farmers and producers in our foodshed and we support our local community of food producers.
- We use green building principles, criteria, and strive to serve as a green building model in our community.

These sustainability practices enrich our human and natural communities while preparing our students to be leaders in a dynamic world.

WHEREAS the Sonoma Academy Student Sustainability Leaders (SSL) -Ella Crenshaw, Miron English, Kate Roney, Tasmin Arai, Izzy Ryan, and Amelia McDonald-presented a climate resolution to the Student Leadership Council that was adopted, the SSL leaders now present this climate action resolution to the Sonoma Academy Board of Trustees.

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT,

1. Sonoma Academy Board of Trustees declares climate change a generational justice and human rights issue.

2. Sonoma Academy Board of Trustees calls on Congress to swiftly end 30 years of climate neglect by enacting national policies to restore the climate for the good of young people and of future generations.
3. We thank the school boards who have spoken up for climate justice by passing their own climate action resolutions. We encourage the independent school community and the National Association of Independent Schools to adopt similar climate change resolutions, calling on Congress to enact climate policies to protect current and future students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sonoma Academy Board of Trustees calls on Congress to take swift and effective action on climate change. **Possible actions** to protect current and future students include 100% clean energy transition plans, green infrastructure and technology investments, and investments in forestry and regenerative agriculture to draw down CO2 from the atmosphere and sequester in soils and biomass.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sonoma Academy Board of Trustees shall transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: California Association of Independent Schools, National Association of Independent Schools, all California members of Congress and the Schools for Climate Action campaign,

Passed Unanimously on 3/21/2019