

**MOUNTAIN VIEW-LOS ALTOS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION NO. 20-40: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION**

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has reported that Earth’s global average atmospheric temperature rose by approximately 0.9 °C (1.5 °F) between 1880 and 2012, and this rise has continued at an accelerated rate; and

WHEREAS, there is a general consensus in scientific communities that human activities have damaged our ecosystems and increased the intensity or frequency of many of the destructive natural phenomena we experience today; and

WHEREAS, human accelerated climate change constitutes a climate crisis that is a pressing issue requiring action at the local, state, national and international levels; and

WHEREAS, many groups of students of the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District recognize the climate crisis as an emergency that requires immediate action; and

WHEREAS, the California Parent Teacher Association has declared climate change a children’s issue as of 2015, and it is the current and future generations of students that will be most impacted by a deteriorating environment; and

WHEREAS, the adverse effects of climate change disproportionately impact segments of the population across the socioeconomic spectrum, thereby making climate change a social equity, human rights and intergenerational justice issue; and

WHEREAS, actions addressing climate change without consideration of unintended economic and sociopolitical consequences can jeopardize lives and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, California, and especially the policy-making governmental bodies within Santa Clara County, are leaders in improving the sustainability of their local communities, as the Mountain View City Council did by voting to divest itself of all previous City investments in fossil fuel companies (2018) and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 (2020); and

WHEREAS, the best educational experience possible for students includes a clean and healthful environment, and credible reassurance of a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, in an optimal learning environment in which students, administrators, faculty, parents and staff respect, support, and learn from one another, thoughtful attention, unencumbered by age bias, is paid to each other’s voices, including students’ voices, especially when speaking on environmental and sustainability issues; and

WHEREAS, the actions and support of a school district can foster community involvement of students to address current issues, including the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, 66 school boards have passed climate resolutions since December 2017, including Campbell Union High School District, Fremont Unified School District, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, and San Francisco Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District celebrates the accomplishments already made toward sustainability, including but not limited to:

1. Green Certification of the entire Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District, which includes all high school campuses and the district office
2. California Green Ribbon School Silver Level status of Los Altos High School in 2019
3. Solar panel canopies at both Mountain View and Los Altos High School parking lots
4. Battery storage systems at both Mountain View and Los Altos High School campuses
5. 50+ electric vehicle charging stations at Mountain View and Los Altos campuses combined
6. Electric power from Silicon Valley Clean Energy provided entirely from solar, wind and hydroelectric power sources
7. Ban on sale of single-use plastic water bottles
8. Distribution of reusable water bottles to every student in the Los Altos High School Class of 2023
9. 9+ water bottle refill stations on Mountain View and Los Altos High School campuses combined
10. Utilization of the water from Los Altos High School well for landscaping purposes
11. Bioswales and French drains to return rainwater to the water table at Los Altos High School
12. Installation of artificial turf on both Mountain View and Los Altos High School campuses to conserve water
13. Meatless Mondays and daily plant-based options at both Mountain View and Los Altos High School cafeterias

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District Board of Trustees does hereby acknowledge that a climate emergency threatens our district, county, state, nation and world, and thus should be an important consideration in formulating policies; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees does hereby urge Congress to take swift and effective action to fight climate change; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees does hereby recommend to the Superintendent that she establish an ad hoc Superintendent's Climate Action Advisory Committee. Said establishment shall occur only after the Superintendent has ascertained that time spent serving on the Committee would be the best use of time for the District personnel she would appoint to it. The Committee's chairperson shall be appointed by the Superintendent, who will also select students, administrators, faculty members, parents, community members and possibly other stakeholders to invite to serve on the Committee. As in any Superintendent's committee, all Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Superintendent, who may revoke any person's appointment at any time. The Committee will provide reports of its activities to the Superintendent and the Board as scheduled by the Superintendent or the Board.

The activities of the Committee shall be to research and to analyze sustainability actions to identify those worth recommending to the Superintendent and the Board for implementation, such activities and actions to include:

1. The activity of reviewing current and future facilities, operations and projects to assess their environmental impacts;

2. The activity of performing cost-benefit analyses that take “soft” costs and benefits into account in establish realistic targets for reducing the District’s greenhouse gas emissions;
3. The action of incorporating environmental education, including climate literacy and environmental justice, into multiple departments’ curricula, to develop further the skills needed to distinguish climate facts from climate fictions, and intellectually honest reasoning about climate change from sophistry;
4. The action of engaging with local, state and federal representatives to advocate non-partisan, scientifically well founded, minimally disruptive climate policies that protect current and future students;
5. The activity of investigating
 - a. less-polluting engines for district vehicles and landscape equipment,
 - b. the risks of depositing district funds in banks invested in the fossil fuel industry,
 - c. public and sustainable transportation,
 - d. reduction of single-use plastics,
 - e. reduction of water usage according to indoor and outdoor water audits from the Santa Clara Valley Water District,
 - f. waste sorting systems on campuses; and
 - g. Other activities or actions that the Superintendent or Board has assigned to the Committee or approved for it.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees does hereby request the District to transmit official copies of this resolution to local school boards, the city and town councils of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, and Palo Alto, the Santa Clara County Office of Education, the State Superintendent of Education, the California State Board of Education, the California School Boards Association, the National School Boards Association, our state and national representatives in Sacramento and Washington D.C., and the Schools for Climate Action Campaign.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees at the Regular Board Meeting conducted on June 8, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

Nellie Meyer, Ed.D., Superintendent