

ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Alameda, California
Resolution

April 25, 2017

Resolution No. 2016-2017.68

Alameda Unified School District Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS, Alameda schools have the potential to make positive, tangible environmental change in the world while teaching students to be stewards of their communities, the earth, and its resources; and

WHEREAS, Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) has considerable opportunity through its purchasing power to improve its environmental footprint, benefiting both the environment and its financial situation; and

WHEREAS, change within schools can help catalyze change in the broader society; and

WHEREAS, many opportunities and choices exist for Alameda schools to use natural resources more efficiently; to reduce, reuse, and recycle; and to purchase clean energy and environmentally preferable products and supplies to protect our global environment; and

WHEREAS, Alameda schools have a tremendous opportunity to teach children about ecological sustainability, environmental health, and nutrition; meet math, science, and social studies standards, integrate environmental and sustainability education into the curricula; and support students to become leaders in making their own community a healthier and more ecologically sustainable place; and

WHEREAS, community groups, businesses, nonprofits, and governmental agencies are partnering with schools to support sustainability initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Education's Blueprint for Environmental Literacy is a lens through which to teach and learn current instructional content, including a knowledge of the interconnections and interdependency of ecological, social, and economic systems; and

WHEREAS, AUSD was invited to participate with Change Scale to implement the Blueprint for Environmental Literacy at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alameda has adopted a Local Action Plan for Climate Protection with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and identify AUSD as a key partner in achieving its greenhouse gas reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature has enacted Assembly Bill 341 and Assembly Bill 1826 requiring all commercial generators, including schools, to recycle and compost; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Waste Management Authority has adopted a countywide ordinance requiring all commercial generators, including schools, to ensure that readily recyclable and compostable materials are appropriately separated from landfill trash; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education adopted a Preferred Partner resolution with the Alameda County Waste Management Authority to receive their support for 90% diversion by 2020; and

WHEREAS, AUSD has partnered with Cenergistic to reduce energy consumption through primarily changing employees' behavior and precisely tracking data related to energy use; and

WHEREAS, AUSD is increasing energy efficiency by installing energy efficient light-emitting diode (LED) lighting at all school sites pursuant to funding from Proposition 39; and

WHEREAS, nine years have passed since the Board of Education first adopted its Green Schools Resolution; and

WHEREAS, since that time Alameda Unified School District has launched the Alameda Green Schools Challenge which strives to increase our recycling rate from 70% to 90% by 2020; identify a Go Green Site Coordinator at each school site and establish uniform recycling and composting programs at all schools and district facilities; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and create zero waste cultural change in our community; and

WHEREAS, excellent work is being performed by students, teachers, custodians, parents, and administrators to implement comprehensive recycling and composting at all school sites increasing their recycling rates from 41% to 70% and providing a model for the district and the community; and

WHEREAS, AUSD won a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association for its achievements in waste reduction and recycling; and

WHEREAS, Bay Farm School and Alameda Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) have been designated as Green Ribbon Schools by the California Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, there should be pride in the work of student environmental clubs at each high school and Go Green Site Coordinators at each school; and

WHEREAS, AUSD and Alameda Municipal Power are working together to support the goals of the district's Conservation, Energy Efficiency, and Generation (CEG) Plan; and

WHEREAS, AUSD is implementing its Facility Master Plan which includes initiatives to reduce energy use and identify opportunities for generating renewable power on site at its facilities and grounds; and

WHEREAS, the district and Alameda Municipal Power have already implemented energy- efficiency retrofits that have saved the district over \$2.2 million since 1995; and

WHEREAS, this framework creates a long-term, inspiring vision that integrates and strengthens many efforts in our district; and

WHEREAS, fully implementing this resolution will take time, leadership, and collaboration, and must be achieved in stages;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that AUSD will continue its excellent progress toward creating

environmentally friendly school sites through comprehensive recycling and composting, energy efficiency, water conservation, bay-friendly landscaping, and integrated pest management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AUSD will seek opportunities to continually reduce its consumption of natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AUSD will explore options to enhance healthy environments on its campuses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AUSD will support the Change Scale working group to implement the Blueprint for Environmental Literacy at the local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AUSD will seek opportunities to work with Alameda Municipal Power to cost-effectively implement on-site generation of renewable power on its buildings and grounds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AUSD will encourage the development of school gardens and green schoolyards at every school as hands-on learning tools that promote good nutrition, stewardship of the land, and teach to standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AUSD will seek partnerships with local community groups, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to support and increase sustainability initiatives in its schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AUSD will provide leadership to assist the implementation of this resolution through biannual meetings of the Alameda Green Schools Challenge Committee (with representatives from each department and school site) to monitor progress, manage community partnerships, and further develop educational programs focused on sustainability;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alameda Green Schools Challenge Committee will, on or near Earth Day, give an annual report on the Alameda Unified School District’s achievement towards its environmental goals, sustainability initiatives, community partnerships, and educational programs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote this 25th day of April, 2017:

AYES: _____ MEMBERS: _____

NOES: _____ MEMBERS: _____

ABSENT: _____ MEMBERS: _____

Gary K Lym, President
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District

ATTEST:

By: _____
Sean McPhetridge, Secretary
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District