

Santa Cruz City Schools
Santa Cruz Green Schools Resolution
April 18, 2007
Resolution #22-06-07

WHEREAS, the greater Santa Cruz community has a far-reaching reputation for its innovative leadership in environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the school district has the potential to make positive, tangible, environmental change while teaching students to be stewards of their communities, the earth, and its resources; and

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

WHEREAS, this district has considerable opportunity through its purchasing power to improve its environmental footprint, benefiting both the environment and its financial situation; and

WHEREAS, our current school facilities frequently use energy, water, and other resources unsustainably; and

WHEREAS, schools consume natural resources, including energy, water, food, and paper, and they generate waste materials, including garbage, runoff, and air emissions, which contribute to the world's larger environmental problems such as global warming, water pollution, air pollution, and habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, the district expends considerable financial resources on cleaning supplies, energy, water, office supplies, and educational materials; and

WHEREAS, students, teachers, staff, administrators, and volunteers can be exposed to harmful chemicals at school that could result in negative impacts on their health and their ability to learn, teach, and work; and

WHEREAS, many options and choices exist for 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, schools have a tremendous opportunity to teach students about ecological sustainability, environmental health, and nutrition while meeting math, science, social studies, and arts standards and to support students to become leaders in making their own school a healthier and more ecologically friendly place; and

WHEREAS, excellent work is already underway in the district, undertaken by teachers, parents, administrators, students, staff, and volunteers including Life Lab, school gardens, recycling, alternative methods of transportation to and from schools, and other programs; 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, and must be achieved in stages;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that to promote healthier, more environmentally sustainable schools, teach environmental stewardship and leadership, and gather input and expertise from the entire community, the Board of Trustees of Santa Cruz City Schools creates the Santa Cruz Green Schools Committee and charges it to develop and recommend policies consistent with this resolution for the Board to adopt; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee will include up to three parents (one each from Pre-K to 5th, 6th to 8th, and 9th to 12th grades), up to three teachers (one each from Pre-K to 5th, 6th to 8th, and 9th to 12th grades), three administrators (one representing facilities, one representing curriculum, and one from the Cabinet), up to three members from local environmental community organizations (appointed by the board president), up to three Santa Cruz City Schools staff members, up to three members from local and county governmental organizations (one each from the City of Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and the County of Santa Cruz), at least one student representative from 6th to 8th and 9th to 12th grades, and up to three Santa Cruz City Schools board members (appointed by the board president); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee will develop and recommend to the Board of Trustees policies for adoption that meet state standards, lighten the district's environmental footprint, and integrate environmental education and student participation into school-wide environmental initiatives, including using partnerships with environmental education providers, both nonprofit and public agencies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the committee will, on or near Earth Day, give to the Board of Trustees an annual report on the district's environmental footprint that will incorporate curriculum issues and environmental sustainability.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of Santa Cruz City School District, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 18th day of April 2007.

AYES _____

NAYS _____

ABSTAIN/ABSENT _____

Rachel Dewey Thorsett
President, Board of Education

Alan Pagano, Superintendent