

First Reading

Subject: Resolution No.
In Support of Sustainability in the San Francisco Unified School District
- Commissioners Jane Kim and Hydra B. Mendoza

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Unified School District recognizes that one of the great challenges of our time is to make decisions and investments that simultaneously advance health, economic vitality, and ecological integrity; and

WHEREAS: The greater San Francisco community has a far-reaching reputation for its innovative leadership in environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS: Schools are important consumers of natural resources and generators of waste and contribute to the world's larger environmental problems of global warming, air and water pollution, and habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS: The exposure of children, teachers, and staff to toxic chemicals at schools can result in negative impacts on their health and their ability to teach and learn; and

WHEREAS: This District expends considerable financial resources on energy, water, refuse services, and custodial and office supplies; and

WHEREAS: Many options and choices exist for schools and their staff 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 environment; and

WHEREAS: Schools have a tremendous opportunity to teach students about ecological sustainability, environmental health, and nutrition and to support students in becoming leaders that create healthier and more ecologically friendly communities; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing that the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District has already passed resolutions in support of green school construction, improved indoor air quality, healthy school nutrition programs, alternative commutes, waste diversion, and Earth Hour; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing that teachers, parents, administrators, students, staff, and volunteers have already undertaken many initiatives to promote healthy and efficient buildings, conserve energy and water, procure recycled-content products and low-emissions school buses, divert waste from the landfill, create green schoolyards, and educate students about the natural world; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing SFUSD's history of collaboration with the SF Department of the Environment, SF Public Utilities Commission, SF Department of Public Health, Mayor's Office, SF Green Schoolyard Alliance, and numerous environmental education organizations, that have made these efforts a success;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District hereby requests that the Superintendent develops policies, practices, and curricula that promote health, sustainability, and fiscal discipline through a long-term process that integrates the following strategies in stages:

- **BUILDING:** A program to ensure that new schools are built, and existing schools refurbished, according to the Collaborative for High Performance School (CHPS) and the EPA's Tools for Schools (TfS) Program. A plan to improve, monitor, and report the energy and water efficiency, as well as indoor air quality, of school buildings and grounds and to explore the application of renewable energy.
- **PROCUREMENT:** An environmentally preferable purchasing and donation policy for office and janitorial supplies, computers and equipment, cleaning chemicals, water fixtures, classroom materials, and fleet vehicles.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation programs that incorporate the traffic impact of school programs on the community into planning decisions and promote alternative transportation, fuels, and practices.
- **SCHOOLYARDS:** The development of school gardens as hands-on learning tools that promote good nutrition and stewardship of the land, stormwater management and capture, and trees to minimize heat islands. A commitment to sustainable landscaping practices that reduce water use and runoff, minimize chemical inputs, and provide habitat for native flora and fauna.
- **FOOD:** A system for providing healthy, local, and whenever possible, organic food for the school lunch program.
- **WASTE:** An effort to expand comprehensive waste reduction, recycling, and composting programs at all SFUSD schools and reduce hazardous waste from photography, labs, auto shops, printing, and eWaste.
- **EDUCATION:** Development of student ecoliteracy in all subjects and at all grade levels, ongoing staff training in efficient building construction and operation, and an emphasis on education and engagement of parents and the community about District sustainability efforts.
- **GREEN TEAMS:** The creation of site-based teams of students, parents, teachers, and staff to reduce utility use, minimize waste, and promote alternative transportation at each school.
- **GREEN SCHOOLS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Creation of a committee to coordinate sustainability projects across the District and develop a master plan and policies consistent with this resolution. Membership for this committee shall include, but need not be limited to:

Sustainability Director
Facilities
Custodial
Landscaping
Transportation
Nutrition
Public Outreach
Certificated
Classified
Admin

Buildings & Grounds
Purchasing
Policy
Curriculum/ROP
Parents
Students
ESLI
SFGSA
SF Environment
SFPUC

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Education requires all schools and administrative departments to:

1. Turn off all lights after school/work hours except in those areas where custodians are working.
2. Keep windows and doors closed during the heating season and report any thermal comfort issues that might make this impossible.
3. Keep ventilation ducts and return grills free from obstruction by books, charts, furniture, or plants.
4. Where possible, eliminate the use of non-LED decorative lighting, halogen torchieres, and space heaters, all of which waste energy and pose fire hazards.
5. Replace individual refrigerators with central refrigerators where possible.
6. Turn off lights, computers, power strips, and other non-essential equipment upon leaving for the day.
7. Refrain from leaving the water running while washing dishes or equipment and report indoor and outdoor leaks to Buildings & Grounds.
8. Adhere to the following Paper Policy to minimize the use of paper:
RETHINK - Send documents electronically or eliminate them altogether.
REDUCE - Print double-sided and reformat documents to fit on fewer pages.
REUSE - Reuse the back of old documents for non-presentation materials.
RECYCLE - Dispose of sensitive or double-sided paper in the recycling bin.
9. Eliminate the purchase of water bottles except for field trips or offsite meetings.
10. Implement a recycling and composting program by the year 2014.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education encourages all employees to incorporate sustainability into their daily lives by:

1. Commuting to work by walking, biking, taking transit, or carpooling.
2. Opening blinds, turning off lights, and using task lighting whenever natural daylight allows.
3. Ensuring that lights are turned off in all areas that will be unoccupied for more than 15 minutes except in corridors, stairwells, and exits as required by code.
4. Scheduling small-group meetings in small rooms instead of large rooms like libraries, gymnasiums, or auditoriums.
5. Dressing in a manner appropriate for the season and time of day.
6. Putting computers to sleep after a certain amount of inactivity instead of leaving the screen saver to run all day.
7. Using water sparingly in classrooms, lunchrooms, and restrooms.
8. Eliminating unnecessary purchases and buying reused, recycled and/or environmentally friendly products where possible.
9. Giving preference to reusable containers and utensils in the office and when organizing staff meetings and school events.
10. Incorporating environmental education into the classroom and getting involved in projects to green your school building and/or schoolyard.

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