

## **San Mateo Union High School District DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

*A resolution 20-21-22 of the San Mateo Union High School District expressing the urgency of climate change, and calling upon School District Boards to adopt strong efforts to reduce Greenhouse Emissions*

WHEREAS, time is of the essence; the actions we do or do not take now and in the next few years will determine the intensity of climate change and its consequences for generations to come; and,

WHEREAS, San Mateo County, sits in an ecologically sensitive area between the Santa Cruz Mountain Range and the San Francisco Bay estuarine shoreline, and every school district in the county will be impacted as the effects of climate change (floods, drought, biodiversity loss, high heat day frequency) escalate; and,

WHEREAS, climate change is accelerating and [San Mateo County is the county most vulnerable county in California to environmental disruptions](#); and,

WHEREAS, the State of California has enacted policies and provided guidance for reducing the state's ecological footprint through green facilities and operations, prioritizing environmental education in curriculum and instruction, and advocating for children and youth to spend time playing and learning outdoors;

WHEREAS the San Mateo County has taken a number of measures address climate change, "facilitating the Regional Integrated Climate Action Planning Suite (RICAPS) program that brings together the County and its 20 cities to plan and implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; launching Climate Ready SMC to better prepare San Mateo County for the changing climate," (San Mateo County Climate Emergency Resolution); and

WHEREAS, the [San Mateo County Board of Supervisors](#) has invited all cities and other local jurisdictions and agencies to also approve a Climate Emergency Declaration; and,

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Union High School District has a responsibility of providing community members with physical, emotional, and intellectual safety, allocating consideration to the current and future impacts of climate change; and,

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Union High School District has demonstrated its commitment to sustainability through the adoption of a [Sustainability Policy and Guidelines \(BP 35101.1\)](#) on October 26, 2017 and has appointed site sustainability facilitators to promote awareness, encourage program participation and foster an environmental sustainability conscious atmosphere at the designated sites; and,

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Union High School District has recently formed a sustainability

subcommittee that meets monthly to discuss sustainability plans and move sustainability projects and objectives to the forefront; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The San Mateo Union High School District declares a climate emergency requiring immediate and effective action from all district operations;
2. The San Mateo Union High School District is committed to passing a climate action plan that will address the following areas;

- I. Green Buildings and Grounds
- II. Operations and Transportation
- III. Food Service and Nutrition
- IV. Air Quality and Direct Greenhouse Gas Measurements
- V. Clean Energy
- VI. Climate Literacy and Climate Advocacy in the curriculum and graduation requirements
- VII. Sustainable Management of Waste and Consumption (paper waste, water, and electricity)
- VIII. Attention to campus biodiversity and Land-Based Ecosystems
- IX. Sustainable Watersheds
- X. Marine Based-Ecosystems and Shoreline Communities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

1. The District will make a public announcement of the declaration's passing and create a timeline for a climate action plan.
2. The District will connect and collaborate with local partners, organizations, and stakeholders to work towards our sustainability goals.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 1st day of April, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NOES: MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees