

Gravenstein Union School District  
Draft Resolution  
CALL TO CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION, 2019

WHEREAS, we believe the United States of America is a great nation and has proud heritage of addressing humanity's most pressing problems;

WHEREAS, we believe it is important to advocate for climate action leading to climate restoration to curtail one of the greatest threats facing communities throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, we believe that climate change is not a partisan issue and that local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and,

WHEREAS, there is a broad scientific consensus among climate scientists that human activities, contributing to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, are the dominant cause of climate change; and,

WHEREAS, children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and,

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Office of Education has encouraged local districts to engage in non-partisan climate advocacy and 29 school boards and student councils in California, Colorado, New York, Virginia, and Nevada have passed non-partisan climate action resolutions;

WHEREAS, in 2015 the California PTA has declared climate change a children's issue;

WHEREAS, the Gravenstein Union School Board recognizes climate change as a generational justice and human rights issue; and,

WHEREAS, climate change is a social justice and equity issue. While climate change impacts *all* people and disproportionately impacts *all* young people and future

WHEREAS, the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders; and,

WHEREAS, national and state elected leaders working in a bipartisan fashion to enact carbon pricing policies could substantially reduce human-made greenhouse gas emissions, thereby protecting our current and future students; and,

WHEREAS the Gravenstein Union School Board celebrates existing district sustainability initiatives such as:

*Energy efficient lighting and the installation of solar panels*

WHEREAS, we work to ensure that all GUSD students graduate as possible stewards of the environment.

**LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT**, GUSD shall direct the Superintendent to establish a Climate Change Committee to develop recommendations for taking action on climate change that are within the purview of the District, such as:

curricular and educational opportunities such as climate literacy and climate advocacy;

facilities and operational priorities and projects including transportation, purchasing, maintenance, landscaping, and construction;

climate-friendly food service: including initiatives to increase plant-based and lower meat recipe menu planning and food waste reduction programs;

targets for reducing District greenhouse gas emissions and carbon budgeting; and,

engagement and non-partisan advocacy with local, state and federal jurisdictions for commonsense climate policies that protect current and future students.

The Committee shall be open to participation by board members, administration, staff, parents, students, and community members, and shall provide quarterly reports of its activities to the Board of Trustees.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the GUSD Board of Education calls on Congress to take swift and effective action on climate change, such as enacting a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend, to protect current and future students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GUSD Board of Education directs the Superintendent to transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: the Superintendent of County Schools, all California county Superintendents of Schools, Gravenstein Union Teacher Association, the district's education foundation (GSF/MPF), the State Superintendent of Education, the Congressional Climate Solutions Caucus, the California State School Board Association, the National School Board Association, all California members of Congress, and the Schools for Climate Action campaign.

**Passed and Adopted** this 12th day of February, 2019.