IN THE MATTER OF SUPPORT FOR YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION

WHEREAS, ninety-seven percent of publishing climate scientists along with organizations including the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Association for the Advancement of Science, National Academy of Sciences, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change affirm that anthropogenic climate change is driving dire consequences for the planet; and

WHEREAS, the current federal administration undermines the validity of climate change and suppressed findings by the US Geological Survey that predicts over $100 billion in climate damages to California by 2100; and

WHEREAS, the current federal administration intends to pull the United States, the second largest emissions contributor in the world, out of the Paris Climate Agreement as soon as the option is available in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering emerging legislation like the Green New Deal, which addresses the climate crisis at the scale of the problem and would ensure that the US reenters the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, April 22, 2020 is the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day and an especially fitting day to raise awareness of the dire environmental issues that we face; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Unified Board of Education has previously recognized the threat from global warming by calling on the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (STRS) and the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) to divest their investment portfolios of stocks in fossil fuel companies; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has adopted Resolutions in Support of Community Choice Aggregation, PTA-Climate Change is a Children's Issue, and Supporting Climate Science Literacy; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Unified School District’s “Dream Big Solutions for a Sustainable Future” plan ensures district climate action and climate consciousness and its Climate Action Plan commits to 100% renewable energy by 2035; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Unified is taking steps towards meeting its goals by retrofitting schools with more efficient air conditioning and lighting systems; and more than 29,000 lighting fixtures
have been converted to LED, offsetting 1,300 metric tons of CO2 gas emissions; and projected district solar energy production by the end of 2020 will offset 8,100 tons of CO2; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Unified has funded the construction of hundreds of acres of parks and green spaces through the joint-use partnership with the City of San Diego; and reduced litter and plastic waste by nearly 4.7 million pieces through the replacement of utensil packets with individual forks, spoons, and napkins; and

WHEREAS, students from San Diego Unified have taken a leadership role in confronting global warming through participation in “Green Teams,” recycling clubs, “Planet Protectors,” and other student groups; and

WHEREAS, “Love Food Not Waste” program has prevented 202,775 pounds of prepared food ending up in landfills, provided 169,120 meals to the hungry, reduced food costs, and eliminated 110,107 pounds of CO2 gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, there will be a Global Climate Strike on April 22, 2020 inspired by Greta Thunberg and led by youth climate leaders to demonstrate to world leaders at all levels of government that the people, especially the youth, are not satisfied with the insufficient response to climate change; and

WHEREAS, Over 3,500 San Diego County students from more than 20 different high schools have previously organized demonstrations for the Global Climate Strike last year on September 20, 2019, and have succeeded in peacefully leading their peers and other members of their communities in educational and powerful rallies and walkouts; and

WHEREAS, the fight for climate justice and action is ongoing, and San Diego Unified students continue to be activists, leaders, and proponents of change in their own communities and campuses, and previous climate strikes led to increased participation and leadership in school environmental clubs and new environmental clubs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Diego Unified School District supports and is proud of students’ leadership in calling for aggressive climate action at the local, national and global levels and their participation in global climate events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Diego Unified School District encourages student-innovation and action in an effort to find ways to reduce the impact of San Diego Unified schools on the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Diego Unified School District encourages students and their families to help plan and participate in online Global Climate Strike activities on April 22nd, 2020, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.
Approved and adopted by the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District, San Diego, California, at a public meeting thereof duly called and held this 14th day of April, 2020.

President

Vice President

Member

Member

Member

Superintendent

Student Board Member

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

ANDRA M. GREENE, General Counsel
San Diego Unified School District

Approved in public meeting of the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District on _______

Marty Stultz, Board Action Officer, Board of Education