WHEREAS, there is consensus in the global scientific community that human-caused climate changes and global warming create current and future risks related to human health and livelihoods, food and water security, ecosystems, as well as economic growth on our Earth\(^1\);

WHEREAS, “sustainability” is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;

WHEREAS, effective “environmental stewardship” of resources can be attained through innovative, results-oriented, sustainability initiatives;

WHEREAS, the Vision of the Mercer Island School District is “Inspiring our students to be lifelong learners as they create their futures;”

WHEREAS, the Mission of the Mercer Island School District states that “The District will foster learning by engaging students in thinking critically, solving problems creatively, and working collaboratively;”

WHEREAS, the Mercer Island School District’s Fundamental 2 sets the goal to “Maintain the highest standards in the areas of fine arts; health and physical education; English language arts; mathematics; financial education; science; environment and sustainability; social studies; world languages; computer science; and educational technology;”

WHEREAS, the Mercer Island School District’s Fundamental 3 sets the goal to “Develop self-awareness, empathy, emotional/social intelligence, responsible decision-making and citizenship;”

WHEREAS, the Mercer Island School District’s Fundamental 5 expresses the goal to “Cultivate and foster thinking and process skills such as analytical and critical thinking, cross-discipline thinking, creativity, innovation, leadership, collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and information and technology literacy in curriculum design;”

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WHEREAS, the Mercer Island School District’s Fundamental 6 declares the goal to “Cultivate global awareness and understanding of real-world problems, issues, concerns, commonalities, differences and interdependence;”

WHEREAS, environmental education is mandatory in the State of Washington and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) requires environmental education “to support academic success and life-long learning, and to develop a responsible citizenry capable of applying knowledge of ecological, economic, and socio-cultural systems to meet current and future needs.”

WHEREAS, the Mercer Island School District is already a full participant in the King County Green Schools Program, which asserts the Vision that “all schools and school districts in King County will practice resource conservation and engage their students and staff in environmental stewardship;”

WHEREAS, the Mercer Island School District, through the King County Green Schools Program, partners with King County to:

- Initiate and expand waste reduction and recycling practices and other conservation actions,
- Involve the whole school community in environmental stewardship, and
- Operate environmentally efficient and responsible facilities;

WHEREAS, all six Mercer Island schools and the District have been recognized as Level One, Two or Three, or Sustaining Green Schools by King County;

WHEREAS, our new award-winning Mercer Island schools already include large, green roof-top gardens, large windows for natural lighting, solar or solar-ready roofs, and water reclamation and retention systems;

WHEREAS, school districts’ activities can have a profound impact on the natural environment and on the health and well-being of students, employees, and the community;

WHEREAS, the Mercer Island School District community has the potential to make positive, tangible environmental change in the world while teaching students to be stewards of the local and global communities, the earth and its resources;

WHEREAS, environmental stewardship is a priority for young people, and reflects the culture of the Mercer Island community and the greater region;

WHEREAS, it is important that the Mercer Island School District continues to be an example of respect and stewardship for the environment;

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2 OSPI — Environment & Sustainability (https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/environment-sustainability)
3 City of Mercer Island — City Sustainability Programs, What the City is Doing (www.mercergov.org/Page.asp?NavID=2543)
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that it will:

1. Support students to become environmental leaders in making their own schools healthy and ecologically-friendly places of learning,

2. Consider environmental, societal and financial implications in decision making,

3. Advocate for the inclusion and state-wide funding of environmental and sustainability education across all academic disciplines,

4. Encourage increasing reliance on clean, renewable energy sources to power the District’s current and future facilities and transportation, and

5. Consider environmental stewardship and sustainability when evaluating new and retrofit building designs, including but not limited to, environmentally sensitive building materials, efficient traffic flow, and eco-friendly use of energy, water, and land.

AND, MAY IT ALSO BE RESOLVED that the Board affirms that it supports the District to continue to:

1. Promote responsible stewardship of energy, water, and other natural resources,

2. Promote waste reduction by means of actively educating the school community on properly recycling and composting and encouraging the reduction and reuse of materials,

3. Create healthy environments for teaching and learning,

4. Encourage and support the efforts of students, teachers, and staff on individual campuses to teach and implement environmental stewardship behaviors,

5. Participate in the King County Green Schools Program,

6. Support all six Mercer Island schools in maintaining recognition as Green Schools by King County,

7. Support “Green Teams” to effectively implement energy saving and other sustainable practices across the District,

8. Optimize use of energy and water in performance of facilities by maintaining energy- and water-efficient operations and maintenance protocols,

9. Encourage “Idle-Free Zones” at all sites to reduce unnecessary vehicle idling, fuel consumption, and harmful vehicle emissions, and
10. Encourage students and parents to walk or bike safely to school as often as possible as a way to enhance children’s health and to improve air quality and environment.

With gratitude to the students, parents and staff of Mercer Island who have spoken out on this issue, implemented programs, initiatives, and provided support within each school, we make this resolution in support of their efforts.

Approved on the 12th day of December, 2019, at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors, Mercer Island School District No. 400, prior to the swearing-in of new Board members.

MERGER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400
Board of Directors

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Brian Giannini Upton, President

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Deborah Lurie, Vice President

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Tracy Drinkwater, Director

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David D’Souza, Director

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Ralph Jorgenson, Director

Attest:

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Donna Colosky, Secretary to the Board

Updated 11/14/19