



MOBILIZING FAMILIES FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

September 23, 2020

Dear Directors of Oakland Unified School Board,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Climate Emergency and Action resolution. As a program of the national Sierra Club dedicated to helping transition school districts to 100% clean energy, we are inspired by the confluence of leadership from many people within OUSD. The draft resolution being presented for the first reading at today's board meeting was the result of a collaborative effort involving parents, students, teachers and the dedicated district staff we have had the benefit of working with, Brendan Havenar-Daughton and Nancy Deming.

The Climate Emergency and Action Resolution will put OUSD on the path toward powering itself with 100% clean electricity by 2030, and to transitioning off of fossil fuels in all operations in 2040. While these are the most significant steps OUSD can take to cut the carbon pollution it generates, there are many other exciting aspects of the resolution, including reducing waste, conserving energy, and expanding community resilience. And we know there's shared clarity among advocates, district staff and the board about ensuring that the climate action plan that is developed center equity and expand racial justice. This will require ensuring that sustainability improvements prioritize the students and communities most impacted by fossil fuel pollution, poor indoor air quality, rolling blackouts that could hamper learning, and more.

Many of the sustainability improvements outlined in the resolution are critical for many reasons, including taking meaningful action to address climate change, improving indoor air quality in the classroom, reducing energy expenditures, creating opportunities to connect STEM learning to the clean energy technologies that will be present on school campuses, and even contributing to community resilience to disasters if solar energy can be paired with battery storage. We believe that the advisory committee called for the resolution will create opportunities to creatively engage our school and surrounding community in implementing the various climate and sustainability solutions the resolution outlines.

We would like to thank Directors London and Gonzales for your leadership regarding this resolution, and are hopeful that the full board will support the Climate Emergency and Action resolution. We are available to address any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Lisa Hoyos
Director, Sierra Club's Climate Parents

Oct. 20, 2020

Dear Members of the Oakland Unified School Board:

As longtime partners in support of science and engineering teaching and learning in Oakland Unified School District, we are writing to express our strong support for the Climate Emergency Action Resolution. Now is the time for purposeful action to address the impacts of climate change. We support the CEA Resolution's central goals of transitioning to 100% clean electricity and away from fossil fuels by 2040, with a clear focus on a collaborative community approach to addressing racial and generational justice. OUSD students, particularly in low-income communities of color, are disproportionately impacted by the harmful direct and historical effects of past environmental policies.

We are encouraged that this resolution is the result of the coming together of OUSD district staff, students, teachers, parents and community members. Community Resources for Science has worked in close collaboration with OUSD teachers, principals, and district science leadership team to support professional development for educators to effectively engage OUSD students in meaningful explorations that build climate and environmental literacy. We engage actual scientists and engineers from university and industry to work directly with teachers and students, providing real world learning that connects with local data and phenomena, including clean air, water, and alternative energy.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with OUSD educators and students, in line with the robust, inclusive vision of the CEA Resolution, to support development and implementation of comprehensive ecological sustainability and social justice policies and solutions, in the classroom and across the district. We urge the Board to adopt this Resolution as another important step toward urgent and meaningful action to address climate change and its harmful local impacts. We are committed to continuing to play a strong partnership role in building environmental and climate literacy that empower students to take meaningful actions to better the schools and communities in which they live.

We are encouraged by this initiative and look forward to partnering with OUSD in creating equitable and just solutions that benefit Oakland's students and families and the planet.

Sincerely,



Teresa Barnett
Executive Director

October 20, 2020

Dear Members of the Oakland Unified School Board,

Thank you for your important work on addressing the climate emergency and climate justice in education. **We are writing to express our strong support for the Climate Emergency Action Resolution.** We are encouraged by the Resolution's focus on addressing racial and generational justice by prioritizing the needs of OUSD's students, schools, and frontline communities and applaud the concrete goals of transitioning to 100% clean electricity by 2030 and all other energy sectors by 2040.

The Resolution uplifts Board Policy 6142.5 - Environmental and Climate Change Literacy (ECCL), offering tangible and District-embedded opportunities to afford students "genuine agency" to lead climate action within the District and beyond. While we were galvanized by the passage of BP 6142.5, focusing on shifting educational paradigms and practices without holding District operations accountable to climate neglect and demanding change towards systemic sustainability practices was an unholistic approach and frankly, hypocritical. We believe that partnering the ECCL policy with a Sustainability Policy that "establishes bold goals and adopts paradigm-shattering commitments to climate action" moves us closer towards what our youth is demanding of us in regards to climate action and education. In the words of our students:

- *"Recognizing youth advocacy as something more than a token inclusion is crucial to combating the climate crisis. I'm pumped that it's a key aspect of this resolution!" - Sage, Oakland Tech student*
- *"They should listen to us, yes. AND the burden shouldn't fall on us alone. We were born into a trashed world. We did not make this mess and older generations need to take responsibility for cleaning it up." - Maya, Oakland Tech student*

We especially support the resolution's commitment to meaningfully engage with community stakeholders to develop a comprehensive ecological sustainability policy and identify priorities and solutions. The Advisory Board *must* be a truly representative body of our OUSD community and the Task Force *must* be accountable to the community. In order for this to be true, there must be clear guidelines and inclusive processes for participation and engagement, transparency through the development and implementation of the Sustainability Policy and established accountability measures. While the Resolution is urging for this work, we look forward to definitive language and commitments that will ensure the Advisory Board is empowered to provide authentic oversight. In the words of a student:

- *"Will the progress of the Task Force be provided to the public, so the community may understand their actions and input suggestions? When is the earliest time that the Task Force will be put together?" - Wilson, Oakland Tech student*

We are aligned with all of the important reasons why **OUSD must take urgent and meaningful action to address climate change**, including achieving carbon neutrality, improving air quality, increasing educational outcomes, supporting students' physical and mental health, reducing waste and water consumption, providing climate literacy for all students and staff, and ensuring our schools are climate resilient.

We are encouraged by this initiative and look forward to partnering in creating equitable and just solutions that benefit Oakland's students and families and the planet.

Sincerely,

The OUSD Environmental and Climate Change Literacy (ECCL) Team

Oct 19, 2020

Dear Members of the Oakland Unified School Board,

Thank you for your important work on addressing the climate emergency and inequity in education. We are writing to express our strong support for the Climate Emergency Action Resolution with its central goals of transitioning to 100% clean electricity by 2030 and all other energy sectors by 2040 and addressing racial and generational justice by prioritizing the needs of OUSD's students of low-income and BIPOC, schools, and communities.

We are encouraged that this resolution is the result of the coming together of OUSD district staff, students, teachers, parents and community members. We especially support its commitment to meaningfully engage with community stakeholders to develop a more comprehensive ecological sustainability policy and in identifying priorities and solutions. We are aligned with all of the important reasons why OUSD must take urgent and meaningful action to address climate change including achieving carbon neutrality, improving air quality, increasing educational outcomes, supporting students' physical and mental health, reducing waste and water consumption, providing climate literacy for all students and staff, and creating resilience as schools function as critical emergency shelters during natural disasters, power outages, food shortages, and toxic air.

We are encouraged by this initiative and look forward to partnering with OUSD in creating equitable and just solutions that benefit Oakland's students and families and the planet.

Sincerely,



Cyane Dandridge, Executive Director

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