

SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH GOALS FOR SUSTAINABILITY,
CLEAN ENERGY, AND CARBON NEUTRALITY**

RECITALS

WHEREAS, there is worldwide scientific consensus that the Earth's climate is warming, that climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities, and that leading scientific organizations have publicly declared that action must be taken to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 to prevent irrevocable damage to the environment; and

WHEREAS, school districts throughout the United States are significant consumers of natural resources, including energy, water, food, and significant generators of waste materials, including garbage, runoff, and air emissions, all of which contribute to the world's larger environmental problems such as global warming, water and air pollution, and habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake City is experiencing the detrimental effects of climate change through increased temperatures, poor air quality, changes in water systems, increased wildfires, extreme weather events, and other environmental disruptions; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake City School District students and staff are entitled to safe and healthy working and learning environments that reflect recommendations of reliable scientific studies indicating that student achievement and attendance and teacher and staff retention are improved when their environment incorporates natural light, improved indoor air quality and acoustics, and is free of toxins, thermally comfortable, and well maintained; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Salt Lake City School District recognizes that achieving environmental sustainability will require a commitment from all sectors of society, and that school districts are in a unique position to make substantial contributions toward the goal of a sustainable world for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to making positive, tangible changes to mitigate climate change, and to ensure that every effort is made to conserve energy and natural resources while exercising sound financial management; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it has a considerable opportunity through the District's purchasing power to improve the environment and to lower financial outlay by providing guidance for district expenditures on energy, water, construction materials, pest control, office and school supplies, and cleaning supplies, and;

WHEREAS, the Board understands that many options exist for schools to use natural resources more efficiently; to promote opportunities to reduce, reuse, and recycle; to ban junk food and soda and to produce healthy lunches through local farm-to-school partnerships; to eliminate toxic chemicals; to

choose recycled paper products; and to purchase (or produce) clean energy to protect our global environment; and

WHEREAS, the Board embraces the tremendous opportunity to teach students about ecological sustainability, environmental health and nutrition; to meet math, science, and social studies standards by integrating environmental education; and to support students in becoming leaders as they make their own schools healthier and more ecologically friendly; and

WHEREAS, the Board also believes that responsible stewardship of public funds requires that new schools and district buildings be designed to provide the district with cost-saving, environmentally sustainable systems, flexible configurations that will enable future improvements, and efficient use of its land and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends that this document create a long-term, inspiring vision that integrates and strengthens many efforts in our district, and further recognizes that fully implementing this resolution will take time and must be achieved in stages.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Salt Lake City School District recognizes the deliberate progress already made by district staff to reduce the district's energy consumption and lessen its carbon footprint through recycling programs, energy-smart programs, and environmentally-responsible and resource-efficient construction practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as the Board seeks to expand upon those effects and to create healthier, more environmentally sustainable schools, the Board hereby establishes the following goals:

1. to use 100 percent clean, renewable energy in its electricity sector by 2030; and
2. to meet 50% of all district operations energy needs with carbon neutral energy by 2035, 75% by 2040, and 100% as soon as practicable thereafter but no later than 2050. Progress on this goal will be measured by tracking our carbon footprint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board commits to the formation of a Sustainability Leadership Task Force by October 1, 2020, that will include community members, students, energy experts, partners, and district staff, and will be chaired by the executive director of auxiliary services. The charge of the committee will be to develop a long-term plan of energy sustainability and clean energy to be presented to the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the task force shall report to the Board no later than October 1, 2021 on an action plan addressing the following areas:

1. proposed practices addressing areas such as sustainability education and professional development, green purchasing, waste reduction, energy-saving initiatives, and community partnerships;
2. a proposed program to ensure that new schools and district buildings are built and refurbished using environmentally sound building materials, efficient use of energy, water and other resources;
3. a proposal for applying sustainable building criteria when making improvements and addressing maintenance orders in existing buildings;

4. a district-wide proposal to improve the energy efficiency of schools, to increasingly rely on clean, renewable energy sources to power the district's facilities, and to ultimately transform schools into independent power producers by investing in clean renewable technologies such as solar and wind;
5. a proposed integrated pest management program to minimize or eliminate the use of hazardous pesticides and herbicides in schools;
6. a proposal for creating or expanding the district's recycling and composting programs, along with the procurement of recycled office and classroom supplies;
7. a proposed plan to purchase and use the least toxic cleaning materials;
8. the potential for developing a farm-to school program to bolster the nutritional value of the district's school lunch program; and
9. a proposal for pursuing outside funding partners and leveraging available incentive programs in the corporate community in order to offset the financial impacts of meeting.

The foregoing resolution is hereby approved and adopted by the Board of Education of the Salt Lake City School District at its regular public meeting held in Salt Lake City on this 2nd day of June 2020.

Melissa Ford, Board President

Nate Salazar, Board Vice President

Michael Nemelka, Board Member

Samuel Hanson, Board Member

Katherine Kennedy, Board Member

Kristi Swett, Board Member

Michelle Tuitupou, Board Member

Alexa Cunningham, Superintendent