

**RESOLUTION**  
**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK**  
**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RESOLUTION No. 2316-3**

**WHEREAS**, April 16-22 is National Environmental Education Week - the nation's largest celebration of environmental education; and,

**WHEREAS**, Environmental Education Week encourages advocacy for the planet through education, though all individuals are encouraged to participate; and,

**WHEREAS**, environmental education is a chance for students to advocate, learn and grow while experiencing the world around them. This type of education teaches youth that their contributions culminate into a large impact on the earth; and,

**WHEREAS**, environmental education offers countless opportunities to improve lives, protect the environment, and prepare all residents to address critical environmental challenges ahead; and,

**WHEREAS**, damage to the environment is evident at the current average of 0.14° Fahrenheit (0.08° Celsius) per decade since 1880, as the temperature increases, so do the consequences on society; and

**WHEREAS**, the climate crisis has been argued to be one of our greatest public health crises according to more than 230 medical journals; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 2022 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released their Sixth Assessment Report on the Mitigation of Climate Change. This report had three key findings; and,

**WHEREAS**, the three key findings are 1) we can halve emissions by 2030, 2) the next few years are critical, and 3) there needs to be continuity between the public sector, finance and policy to reach these goals; and,

**WHEREAS**, on a local level, youth-focused organizations such as Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, SVYCA, a youth-led nonprofit that empowers teens and young adults are taking steps to combat climate change and partner to create impactful education and policy initiatives; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has expanded support for the development of school gardens and school garden curriculum in schools across Santa Clara County; and,

**WHEREAS**, 93% of the users of the school gardens are students; and,

**WHEREAS**, California's Fourth Climate Assessment explains that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, California has implemented the Next Generation Standards which allows students to apply science skills in understanding, engage in real-world inquiry, and addressing climate change; and

**WHEREAS,** the state of California has adopted the Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) Curriculum as a model to demonstrate how to integrate environmental literacy into instruction. This K-12 curriculum uses the environment as a context to help students learn science and history-social science; and,

**WHEREAS,** the environmental principles and concepts in California's Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) curriculum highlight the complex relationship between humans and the Earth and are the foundation of the environmental content taught in the model curriculum. The five principles include 1) People Depend on Natural Systems, 2) People Influence Natural Systems, 3) Natural Systems Change in Ways that People Benefit From and Can Influence, 4) There are no Permanent or Impermeable Boundaries that Prevent Matter from Flowing Between Systems, and 5) Decisions Affecting Resources and Natural Systems are Complex and Involve Many Factors; and,

**WHEREAS,** in support of environmental education, the Santa Clara County Office of Education offers both Walden West Environmental Education which provides science camps, summer programs, and school programs, as well as iSTEAM (Integrated Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) which provides high-quality professional learning opportunities and instructional supports to improve teaching and learning in Artspiration, career technical education (CTE), computer science, environmental literacy, mathematics, and science; and,

**WHEREAS,** to create a resource for community members to learn about events and resources around climate action but also to assist school districts, the Santa Clara County Office of Education created an Environmental Literacy website. This has information about curriculum, community and culture and events around environmental literacy and sustainability; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Santa Clara County Office of Education and the County of Santa Clara Office of Sustainability partnered with Our City Forest to plant 1,000 trees across Santa Clara County. This effort began in April of 2022 and as of 2023 has surpassed the goal of 1,000 trees planted on school campuses; and,

**WHEREAS,** to support individual campuses in their pursuit of becoming more sustainable, the Santa Clara Office of Education supports schools to create a Climate Action Plan. A Climate Action Plan is a strategic framework that is detailed and aims to track and reduce greenhouse gas emissions as they contribute to Global Warming; and

**WHEREAS,** the SCCOE hosted the 2nd annual Environmental Literacy Summit on March 18, 2023 to create a space for youth and educators to learn and advocate in the community, green career pathways, school gardens for health and education and more; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Santa Clara County Office of Education is dedicated to creating equitable resources for youth, school communities, and educators in the field of environmental education; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent do hereby adopt this resolution to honor National Environmental Education week and affirm a shared commitment to inspire and promote environmental education and advocacy of this Earth.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 15, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: President Chon, Vice President Sreekrishnan, and Trustees Berta, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Rocha

NOES: none

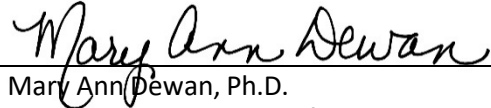
ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Victoria Chon, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools