

**RESOLUTION**  
**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK**  
**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RESOLUTION No. 2296-2**

**WHEREAS**, April 18-24 is National Environmental Education Week - the nation's largest celebration of environmental education; and,

**WHEREAS**, National Environmental Education Week brings together educators, students, government agencies, businesses, communities, non-profit organizations, and others to inspire and promote environmental learning and stewardship of land, air, and water; and,

**WHEREAS**, the more we understand our connection to the environment, the more the possibilities to influence how those connections impact our health and our planet. Collectively, our small, individual actions add up to a big difference; and,

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

**WHEREAS**, in September 2021, the US Department of Education released the third version of its Climate Adaptation Plan. Identified in the adaptation plan are agency leads to support educators, students, and parents to understand and adopt ways to combat climate change through the promotion of environmental and sustainability literacy. Through this research a need for equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, resilient, 21st-century learning environments was also identified; and,

**WHEREAS**, these needs were further highlighted by our partners at the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network, who revealed three key findings from the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report released in August 2021; and,

**WHEREAS**, the three key findings are 1) global warming is 100% certain caused by humans, 2) the impacts of the climate crisis are already here and are disproportionately impacting low-income, Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, and 3) temperatures have already increased by 1.09°C since 1880 and will continue to the 1.5°C mark in the next 20 years due to emissions from past decades; and,

**WHEREAS**, as a result of these findings, and stemming from the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in November 2021, members of the Sustainable and Climate Resilient Schools Community, including the California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI), provided three key recommendations; and,

**WHEREAS**, the three key recommendations are 1) educational leaders need to see themselves as environmental/climate leaders, 2) climate leaders need to work with K-12 educators, and 3) education needs a significant funding investment to be sustainable and climate ready; 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 leading the way to combat climate change and partner to create impactful education and policy initiatives; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is expanding technical assistance for the development of school gardens and school garden curriculum in schools across Santa Clara County. SCCOE's recent Growing Gardens Survey/Project found that out of 250 schools and programs that participated in Santa Clara County 69% of schools have gardens; and,

**WHEREAS**, to continue garden education, schools will build partnerships, increase professional development for teachers, secure new funding resources, and continue the integration of garden lessons with grade level curriculum; and,

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

**WHEREAS**, the environmental principles and concepts in California's Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) curriculum highlight the deep relationship between humans and the natural world 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**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success and aims to improve student equity and access to high quality education, provide quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities as well as be a premier service organization;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent does hereby adopt this resolution to honor National Environmental Education week and the commitment to inspire and promote environmental learning and stewardship of land, air, and water.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 16, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: President Ortiz, Vice President Chon and Trustees Di Salvo, Kamei, Mah, Rossi and Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

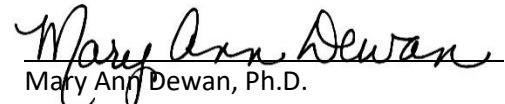
ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Peter Ortiz, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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