

Lake Tahoe Unified School District Board of Education
Resolution No. 2020/21-07 in Support of School District Climate Literacy

Whereas, the state of California is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, being impacted by the overall global increase in temperature as reflected in the rise of the average temperature in the state by about 1.7°F since 1895, and resulting in an environment in which wildfires become more intense, flooding from sea level rise is more frequent, reliable water supplies are at greater risk, ecosystems are irreversibly damaged, and the health and well-being of the public is imperiled; and

Whereas, the winter sports industry in Lake Tahoe generates upwards of \$70 billion per year and supplies 694,918 jobs (according to Protect Our Winters), a major factor in the economy of the Tahoe region; and

Whereas, in 1910, Tahoe's average winter low was about 28 F°. In 2015, the average winter low was above 32 F°. We have seen a 4 F° warming period which puts our average winter low above freezing point; and

Whereas, the City of South Lake Tahoe has a Climate Action Plan which includes looking into climate curriculum; and

Whereas, the fate of current and future climate change initiatives is multigenerational, yet the state of California has recognized that "... K-12 students in California do not currently have consistent access to adequately funded, high-quality learning experiences, in and out of the classroom, that build environmental literacy"; and

Whereas, South Tahoe High School students have gone on record, calling for students to be educated on the impacts of climate change, the ways to combat it, AND civic responsibilities; and

Whereas, Climate change is not partisan nor a political problem. Therefore, a curriculum including civic responsibility in regards to climate change should be accepted in public school; and

Whereas, it is essential that all high school students in their classrooms and communities explore and understand the causes and consequences of the climate crisis. In implementing its commitment to prepare students for college and careers, LTUSD should recognize that as our society moves rapidly and definitively away from fossil fuels, we will need to prepare our students for robust job opportunities in green technologies, construction, and restoration efforts;

Whereas, in the context of California's growing commitment to STEAM (science, technology,

Be It Further Resolved, that LTUSD commits itself to providing teachers, administrators, and other school personnel with professional development, curricular materials, and outdoor and field studies that explore the breadth of causes and consequences of the climate crisis as well as potential solutions that address the root causes of the crisis; and do so in ways that are participatory, imaginative, and respectful of students' and teachers' creativity and eagerness to be part of addressing global problems, and that build a sense of personal efficacy and empowerment.

Be It Further Resolved, that LTUSD Invites community organizations and relies on environmental agencies in order to professionally train teachers and provide learning opportunities for all students.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the School Board of the Lake Tahoe Unified School District this 22nd day of September, 2020, by the following vote:

Ayes: Larry Reilly, Troy Matthews, Bonnie Turnbull, Brandi Bannister, Lauri Kemper

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

Signed:



Troy Matthews, Clerk of the Board