



Iowa City Community School District

Educational Services Center

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Iowa City Community School District Resolution to Address Climate Change through Education, Clean Energy, and Sustainability

WHEREAS, students, faculty, administrators, and board members in the District have expressed their support for an active role by the District in mitigating climate change; and

WHEREAS, we believe that climate change is not a partisan issue and that local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and,

WHEREAS, there is a broad scientific consensus among climate scientists that human activities, contributing to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, are the dominant cause of climate change; and,

WHEREAS, children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and,

WHEREAS, the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District develop recommendations for taking action on climate change that are within the purview of the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District develop curricular and educational opportunities in areas such as climate literacy, climate change, the impact of sustainable agriculture on climate, and climate advocacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District engage with energy consultants to develop a baseline of current greenhouse gas emissions from all sources including facilities, grounds, and transportation, use that data to set reduction targets in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change standards, and provide annual updates to the board on progress toward meeting those targets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District engage with energy consultants to develop a baseline of current energy use met through renewable sources, determine the life cycle costs of current and future renewable energy projects, conduct an environmental impact assessment, use that data to set targets to increase renewable energy sources, and provide annual updates to the board on progress toward meeting those targets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District develop facilities and operational priorities and projects for additional energy efficiency in the areas of construction, maintenance, landscaping, and transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District develop initiatives to increase recycling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District develop initiatives to include sustainable agriculture practices in menu planning and food waste reduction programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District develop a Climate Action Plan with specific targets for educational programming, greenhouse gas emission reduction, renewable energy use, facilities and operational priorities, recycling initiatives, and nutritional services programs upon completion of feasibility studies from energy consultations but no later than December 31, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District continue the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee and incorporate their recommendations into the Climate Action Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District develop engagement and non-partisan advocacy with local, state and federal jurisdictions for commonsense climate policies that protect current and future students.

The mission of the Iowa City Community School District is to ensure all students will become responsible, independent learners capable of making informed decisions in a democratic society as well as in the dynamic global community; this is accomplished by challenging each student with a rigorous and creative curriculum taught by a diverse, professional, caring staff and enriched through the resources and the efforts of families and the entire community.