RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 58 AND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION’S EL ROADMAP

Whereas, Proposition 58: EdGE (Education for a Global Economy) passed by an over 70% majority on November 8, 2016, reflecting California’s strong support for preparing all students for college and careers in a multilingual 21st century economy;

Whereas, the California State Board of Education adopted an English Learner Roadmap in July 2017 calling for school districts to ensure that English Learner (EL) students attain high levels of English proficiency, mastery of grade level standards and have opportunities to develop proficiency in multiple languages starting in Early Childhood Education (ECE);

Whereas, close to 43% of the Santa Cruz County’s students, k-12th grade, are currently learning academic English as a second language, and have the opportunity to learn both in English and their native language to significantly increase their chances of high achievement in school, leading to higher education and global careers as multilingual speakers;

Whereas, another 2.3% of the Santa Cruz County’s students, k-12th grade, already have strong proficiency in English but also speak another language, and by participating in language programs these students can be better prepared to compete in the global workforce as multilingual speakers;

Whereas, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education is committed to supporting districts in providing opportunities for monolingual English-speaking students starting in ECE to be instructed to achieve proficiency in a second language so that they will be better prepared to compete in the global workforce as multilingual speakers;

Whereas, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education is committed to aligning all of its programs and services for EL students with the State Board’s EL Roadmap and is committed to supporting districts to the same;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, that the Governing Board of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education hereby directs its Superintendent to work with county, districts and schools to:
1. Develop and strengthen language acquisition program options for the county’s students, ECE-12th grade, including dual immersion, bilingual and foreign language acquisition programs; and

2. Work with District English Learner Advisory Committees in the development and improvement of the language acquisition programs and educate all parents regarding language acquisition programs; and

3. Evaluate current programs and services for the county’s EL students, in order to determine what changes may be needed in order to ensure alignment with the State Board’s EL Roadmap; and

4. Implement changes needed to ensure alignment between the programs and services for EL students, ECE-12th grade, with the State Board’s EL Roadmap to be included in Local Control Accountability Plans; and

5. Create differentiated, separate growth goals for EL students starting with ECE within all of the LCAP priority areas, as appropriate, in order to ensure that the District’s programs and services for EL students are effectively ensuring that the District’s EL students are attaining high levels of English proficiency, mastery of grade level standards and proficiency in their primary language.

6. Implement and expand recognition at ECE, elementary and middle school for participation and attainment of proficiency in English and another language leading to the awarding of the State Seal of Biliteracy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this day 18 of Apr., 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: Filicetti, Nichols, Roth, Sales, Sanchez, Van Allen

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Barr

Dana M. Sales, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

ATTEST:

Dr. Faris M. Sabbah
County Superintendent of Schools
Secretary, Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Board Approved: April 18, 2019