

# Press Release

SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Solana Beach School District Board of Education Approves *Call to Climate Change Action, Sustainability, and Environmental Stewardship* Resolution in Time for 50th Anniversary of Earth Day Celebration



SOLANA BEACH, CA (April 21, 2020)—With the 50th anniversary of Earth Day taking place tomorrow, April 22, celebrations are gearing up across the world. In anticipation of the event, the [Solana Beach School District](#) (SBSD) Board of Education approved a future-focused resolution which calls for the District to actively engage in and support environmental solutions to increase sustainability for its students and future generations.

*(Photo: Skyline School Eco Otters call for elimination of single-use plastics during a 2019 Board Meeting.)*

The newly named *Call to Climate Change Action, Sustainability, and Environmental Stewardship* resolution solidifies the District’s commitment to modeling environmental leadership and stewardship for all of its elementary students, some of whom played an important role in its adoption. For the past two years, students have actively sought to create sustainable measures in their schools and requested that the District support them in doing even more.

“One of the most important values we can teach our students is to look for ways to make a positive difference in our community and in the world,” said Board President Julie Union. “The Board is excited to provide our resolution on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day as a testament to our commitment. We are incredibly proud of our proactive students and look forward to continued meaningful collaborations.”

The resolution calls for the District to:

- Provide continued assurance that new buildings and modernization of existing buildings use environmentally sensitive building materials, as well as efficient use of energy, water, and other resources whenever possible and are deemed cost-efficient;
- Support collaboration efforts with cities and outside agencies to create safe routes for students to bike and walk to school;

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- Support piloting “exemplar” programs for waste reduction through recycling and composting and encourage all schools within the District to participate;
- Continued evaluation of sustainability improvement efforts for the Child Nutrition program (e.g., more locally sourced and/or organic foods, more vegetarian options, less processed/packaged food);
- Support school gardens as hands-on learning experiences that promote good nutrition and stewardship of the land; and,
- Embed sustainability education for students through next generation science standards and state-adopted curriculum.

At its regular meeting on April 16, Board members voted unanimously to approve the resolution and to ask that students from across the District be a part of its implementation by collaborating on actionable next steps. Elementary students from Skyline and Solana Ranch schools, with the support of staff and parent leaders, were already meeting and using the District’s STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts, and Math) lessons to research ways to implement sustainable measures in their schools. On hearing about the Board’s decision, fourth grade Solana Ranch student and Enviro Hawk Aaron Dsouza said, “I look forward to seeing the resolution in action after the pandemic is over, especially reducing the plastic in school lunches. Plastic is the number one problem.”

Solana Ranch parent volunteer Yu Linda Song also said, “I am very pleased that the Solana Beach School District Board and administration honored student voices. The Board’s public commitment to reducing waste and safeguarding our precious resources will spur all of our schools to make necessary adjustments towards more sustainable practices. The greatest lesson for the students is that we all can make a positive impact on our planet by starting with small steps.”

A group of Skyline students, or the Eco Otters as they call themselves, initiated the elimination of single-use plastic packets filled with sporks, straws, and napkins after their Board presentation in 2019. All schools now offer individual spork, straw, and napkin options without the plastic bags during lunchtime. Solana Ranch’s Enviro Hawks joined forces with the Eco Otters in last year’s Board presentation and continue their work on sustainability practices and helping to educate their peers. *(Photo, right: Solana Ranch Enviro Hawk members with Trustees and the Superintendent)*



According to Skyline Principal Kim Pinkerton, “The Eco Otters have so many amazing ideas on how to promote zero waste at Skyline. They are already working on a presentation to share with Superintendent Brentlinger upon our return to school.”

“I’m grateful for the steps that our Board, District and student leaders are taking to reduce waste, protect our natural resources, and teach all students, staff and community how to be good stewards of the earth,” said Solana Ranch Principal Jerry Jones.