

Draft Resolution on Sustainability & the Design and Construction of High Performance Schools

Menlo Park City School District Board of Education

Adopted _____

Date

WHEREAS, Students and staff are entitled to a safe and healthy school environment, and studies have indicated that student achievement is greater and attendance higher, and teacher and staff retention is improved, when the learning environment is naturally lit, comfortable and well maintained;

WHEREAS, Schools should employ design, construction and operation strategies that minimize operating costs, in particular for energy and water use as studies show that new facility energy costs, for example, can be reduced by 25 percent or more;

WHEREAS, Schools that follow sustainable design principals can contribute to our community's environment by minimizing waste and air and water pollution;

WHEREAS, the District's program to build new schools and renovate existing ones provides a unique opportunity to move beyond standard designs;

WHEREAS, the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) has developed comprehensive design criteria based on the latest available information on sustainable school design, construction, and operation; and

WHEREAS, Schools designed to meet the CHPS criteria incorporate environmental features that provide a context for learning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Menlo Park City School District Board of Education recognizes the progress already made by the District's staff and design teams to incorporate sustainable design criteria into the District's school construction program; and

RESOLVED further, That the Board directs staff to expand this effort to ensure that every new school, new building and major modernization project, from the beginning of the design process, incorporate CHPS criteria and best practices to the extent feasible; that the Measure U Bond projects minimally meet the CHPS qualifying criteria and preferably exceed the minimum criteria for Major Modernization/New Building on an Existing Campus and for New School Construction; and that the focus be on criteria in the following priority areas:

1. Sustainable Site Development
2. Water Efficiency/Conservation
3. Energy Efficiency
4. Sustainable Material Use
5. Indoor Environmental Quality

RESOLVED further, that the Board of Education directs staff to follow the CHPS Roadmap and scorecard to ensure the efficient and complete implementation of CHPS, including creating a performance tracking system to ensure the effective implementation of the CHPS criteria throughout design, construction and operation; and

RESOLVED further, That the Board of Education endorses District participation in and directs staff to pursue partnerships that further the goal of high performance schools, including Federal, State and utility programs that provide sustainable design financial incentives, and;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education directs staff to report to the Board on a bi-annual basis on the progress of this program, and to provide summary statistics on the status of Measure U Bond projects which have incorporated CHPS design criteria, and other statistics useful in assessing the progress of this effort.