

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 17/18-27

Resolution Recommending MDUSD Join School Funding Coalition (SFC) Advocacy Efforts

WHEREAS, California is suffering greatly from decades of chronic underfunding of K-12 public schools, with California School Boards Association estimating a need for an additional \$20 billion to \$40 billion annually to bring us up to what they have determined to be considered adequate funding levels (California's Challenge: Adequately Funding Education in the 21st Century, CSBA 2016); and

WHEREAS, California spends just 2.7% of taxable income on schools with national average being 3.3%, and Ed Week (2014) reports aspiring to the national average would provide an additional \$12 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education understands increased funding is required for recent state mandates on K-12 districts and employees to contribute to the state's unfunded liability of PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) and STRS (the State Teachers Retirement System), a cost of nearly \$6 billion more expected of districts to pay in 2020-2021 compared to 2013-2014 funding levels, with school districts currently still yet waiting on the promise to be funded at 2007-2008 funding levels in years ahead; and

WHEREAS, recently local legislators like California Assembly Member Rob Bonta (District 18) and California State Senator Nancy Skinner (District 9) have now advocated for eliminating Prop 13's commercial property tax loopholes through the "Make It Fair" campaign that aims to help with the funding inadequacy that exists in public education and other public services to citizens in California; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education similarly recognizes legislative advocacy and collective action are required to heighten public awareness to these problems and increase state contributions to California's underfunded K-12 public education system so we can provide critical services to all of our students and also so we help ensure we can work to recruit and retain qualified employees required to serve them; and

WHEREAS, the California School Funding Coalition recently put out "A Call to Action" wherein numerous California school districts up and down the state have outlined a need for legislative advocacy efforts required to demand legislators and voters consider a new educational funding model that would increase the base Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funding so public school districts across the state can aspire to increased funding levels required to improve our services to families and students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education supports staff's recommendation to contribute to the cause of legislative advocacy efforts to these ends by joining the School Funding Coalition (SFC) that is working at coordinating advocacy to build an aspirational LCFF funding target that will fund California schools commensurate with the top ten states in the nation, a goal befitting the world's sixth largest economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board of Education approves staff's recommendation to join the School Funding Coalition (SFC) in order to have MDUSD benefit from collective action and legislative advocacy efforts organized by SFC to help boost the California LCFF base grant in order to help MDUSD provide for students, families, and staff in an era when the existing California state funding mechanism has been chronically underfunded and requires additional investment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote on this 8th day of January, 2018.

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____

ATTESTED BY:

Debra Mason, President
Board of Education
Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Dr. Nellie Meyer, Superintendent
Mt. Diablo Unified School District