

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution No. 16/17-37

**RECOGNITION OF CALIFORNIA ADULT EDUCATION WEEK
AND SUPPORT FOR RETAINING K-12 ADULT EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, The State of California is designating April 2-8, 2017; and

WHEREAS, The first recorded adult education class in California, authorized by the San Francisco Board of Education to teach English to Irish, Italian, and Chinese immigrants was conducted in 1856 in the basement of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco and taught by John Swett, the first volunteer teacher, who later become State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools having been called upon on numerous occasions to assist the State of California manage significant social, political, and economic issues, such as job training programs during the Great Depression; training skilled and under-skilled workers during World War II; and preparing millions to transition from legal residency to naturalized citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Adult Education in California overcame a major challenge resulting from a severe state and national economic crisis in 2008-2009, when funding previously reserved for adult education was redistributed to other levels of education in the state, and many adult schools therefore were decreased in size or closed; and

WHEREAS, **Mt. Diablo Adult Education (MDAE)** successfully serves **Concord, and parts of Walnut Creek, Martinez, Bay Point and Pittsburg** through collaboration with community college partners and community-based organizations as part of the **Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG)** system, with **MDAE** serving **8,080** adult students in the 2016-17 school year; and

WHEREAS, **MDAE** provides significant and varied programs and services to **the aforementioned communities**, including: workforce re-entry, job and career preparation (Allied Health and Business), short-term career technical education, parent education, English-as-a-Second Language (ESL), family literacy, naturalization/citizenship, and lifelong education programs; and

WHEREAS, **MDAE** currently serves **469** students in the High School Diploma (HSD) and High School Equivalency (HSE) programs in the 2016-17 school year, many of whom will therefore receive their high school diploma as a result; and

WHEREAS, **MDAE** currently serves **2,154** students in the English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) Program in the 2016-17 school year, some of whom are parents enrolled in ESL Family Literacy learning how to assist their children in MDUSD K-12 schools, dedicating hours annually to actively support their children in school as well as the schools where their children attend; and

WHEREAS, **MDAE** provides a safe environment for its students, free from discrimination regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District strongly supports Adult Education as an important part of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District strongly urges the Governor of California, Jerry Brown, and the California Department of Education to provide ongoing, stable funding for Adult Education programs by revising the current term "grant" in Adult Education Block Grant, to reflect a more consistent, stable and long-term funding source needed to ensure continuity of Adult Education programs in California and to proclaim the week of April 2-8, 2017, as *California Adult Education Week* in the MDUSD community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of **March**, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENCES:

ABSENTIONS:

MDUSD BOARD SECRETARY

MDUSD BOARD PRESIDENT