

MDUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION 19/20-52
In Support of Adult Education in K-12

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

WHEREAS, Adult Schools have been utilized on numerous occasions to assist the state as it dealt with significant social, political, and economic issues through job training programs during World War II, immigration reform of the 1980s, and most recently, the Great Recession; and

WHEREAS, Adult education in California overcame its biggest challenge as a result of the severe economic crisis facing both the state and the nation in 2008-2009. Funding that was previously reserved to adult education was redistributed to other levels of education in the state, resulting in in many adult schools decreasing in size and some closing; and

WHEREAS, there are over 431,000 adult learners enrolled in adult schools across California, many of which are in the age-range to have children in our public school system. The impact of adult education is felt across generations, particularly for early childhood learners who have been characterized as a priority of the Governor and Legislature; and

WHEREAS, **Mt. Diablo Adult Education** successfully serves Concord, Bay Point, and parts of Pittsburg, Martinez and Walnut Creek, through its collaboration with its community college partners and community based organizations through the Adult Education system. **Mt. Diablo Adult Education** served 7,708 students in the 2018-19 school year; and

WHEREAS, **Mt. Diablo Adult Education** provides significant and varied classes and programs to serve Concord, Bay Point, and parts of Pittsburg, Martinez and Walnut Creek and the surrounding communities, including: class categories outlined in AB 104 (2015) such as Computer Classes, Job Preparation Classes; High School Diploma and Equivalency Programs, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, Citizenship Classes, Healthcare Training and more; and

WHEREAS, **Mt. Diablo Adult Education** served 569 students in the High School Diploma and High School Equivalency (HSE) Programs in the 2018-19 school year. The programs help minimize the high school dropout rate. 48 students earned their high school diploma, and 42 students earned their High School Equivalency (HSE) in the 2018-19 school year; and

WHEREAS, **Mt. Diablo Adult Education** served 2,175 students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program in the 2018-19 school year, and parents enrolled in ESL

classes learn how to assist their children with school work and dedicate several hours a year tutoring their own children; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Diablo Adult Education provides a safe environment for its students free from discrimination or bullying regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or socio economic status;

WHEREAS, amid the current COVID-19 pandemic **Mt. Diablo Adult Education** continues to provide critical programming and services to our adult education students and their families via literacy and basic skills to help ensure our K12 students are successful as they navigate the challenge of distance learning to finish the school year;

WHEREAS, amid the current COVID-19 pandemic **Mt. Diablo Adult Education** provides important short term career training programs, including for critical healthcare positions, to address both the short and long term impacts and to respond to Governor Newsom’s charge to meet the moment and address the needs of our communities; and

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

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Mt. Diablo School District strongly urges the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, and the California Legislature to recognize the important role of K12 adult education in addressing the needs of our communities in the short and long term and to increase access to programs and services for the most in-need and not yet reached members of our great State.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of April, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENCES:

ABSTENTIONS:

Brian Lawrence, Board President

Debra Mason, Board Vice President

Cherise Khaund, Board Member

Joanne Durkee, Board Member

Linda Mayo, Board Member

Date Signed

Adopted by the Governing Board on ___/___/2020.

Robert A. Martinez
Secretary to the Board