

Palisades Charter High School

Resolution

for

April 20th, 2021 Board Meeting

Sponsored by Gill

Co-sponsored by Rauschuber and Anderson

Resolution to commit Palisades Charter High School to energy efficiency, 100% clean renewable energy sources with focus on environmental justice and equity by 2025.

WHEREAS, We must transition off of fossil fuels to prevent catastrophic climate change all over the world;

WHEREAS, This threat endangers the livelihood of every community in California, particularly the futures of young generations and the generations to come;

WHEREAS, California is seeing decreased rainfall, increased forest fires and numerous, recent local fire evacuations, coastal erosion, species extinctions, and higher temperatures;

WHEREAS, Everything is at stake: our health, our infrastructure, our economy, and most importantly, our environment;

WHEREAS, LAUSD is LADWP's biggest customer, and most schools are among the largest fossil fuel energy consumers in a community;

WHEREAS, While solar renewable energy technology has improved and installation and maintenance costs have become cheaper and more readily available, traditional non-renewable energy is growing in cost;

WHEREAS, 100% clean energy could allow PCHS to save money that could be used in the classroom;

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of PCHS, as an independent charter, to conduct energy audits to improve energy efficiency;

WHEREAS, PCHS, as an independent charter, has the right to conduct feasibility studies with service providers to determine the safety, cost-benefit, and feasibility of new technologies to install solar energy at Palisades Charter;

WHEREAS, Renewable energy plus battery storage is essential to reducing indirect carbon emissions, preventing energy disruptions and fighting the climate crisis;

WHEREAS, LAUSD and PCHS are committed to equity, justice and inclusion, and understand that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color;

WHEREAS, It is the PCHS mission to empower our diverse student population to make positive contributions to the global community by dedicating our resources to ensure Education Excellence, Civic Responsibility, and Personal Growth;

WHEREAS, The PCHS Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities declares (based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

See Preamble:

https://www.palihigh.org/ourpages/auto/2019/6/28/51452474/SBRR_Concern_Form_1_9_18.pdf?rnd=1561723472000

Article 1: The universal right to a school environment that is conducive to the achievement of everyone's fullest potential. Responsibility: everyone has the responsibility to protect and contribute to the realization of this right.

Article 14: Students have the right to learn and speak out about social and global problems related to justice, poverty, speech, etc., while on campus and, if the subject and teacher permit it, during class. Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to encourage speakers and presentation about issues of importance for the student body.

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED that PCHS investigate the feasibility of transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy, plus battery storage by issuing RFPs (Request for Proposal) to service providers, with proposals due for Board consideration no later than October 2021.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that PCHS commit to energy efficiency by establishing a schedule to review PCHS energy reports starting January 2022, and renew goals to constantly improve energy-saving measures, and publish the results for review by the PCHS staff, students and local community.

FURTHER RESOLVED, PCHS will strive to embed sustainability and climate change education for students and employees into everyday teaching and learning, and increase student learning opportunities which empower students to fight the climate crisis and engage in the coming green jobs economy. The HRW Student Task Force will convene a committee of educators and students to develop climate change resources to make available to interested PCHS community members beginning June, 2021.