



## THE GRAUER SCHOOL JOINT FACULTY AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES CALL TO CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION, 2019

WHEREAS, The Grauer School Board of Trustees and Faculty recognize climate change as a generational justice and human rights issue, and to empower our students; and,

WHEREAS, The Grauer School Board of Trustees as a whole believes unity across all school constituencies is essential to our larger impact; and

WHEREAS, the Grauer Faculty and Student Body have a long dedication to stewardship of the natural world; and

WHEREAS, the Grauer Faculty have dedicated the 2019-20 academic year to this cause; and

WHEREAS, there is a broad scientific consensus among climate scientists that human activities, contributing to increases in greenhouse gas emissions and habitat loss is a major cause of climate change and species extinction; and,

WHEREAS, we believe it is our moral imperative to advocate for climate action leading to climate restoration to curtail grave threats facing communities throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, we believe that climate change is not a partisan issue and that local, state, and national policies must be guided by the best available science; and,

WHEREAS, children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations, as well as all species, many facing extinction; and,

WHEREAS, climate change is a social justice and equity issue (Climate change impacts all people and disproportionately impacts all young people and future generations; it disproportionately affects people of color and people in poverty, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is foundational to American democracy); WHEREAS, youth claimants are currently asserting a constitutional right for a livable climate in in courts around the country (e.g., the *Juliana v. U.S.* case currently in federal courts and dozens of similar claims)

WHEREAS, the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders; and,

WHEREAS, The Grauer School Board of Trustees and Faculty recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on America's schools, students, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, in our pursuit of a sustainable future, The Grauer School seeks constant improvement by the sharing of knowledge, by holding long-term ecological sustainability as our highest ethical responsibility, and by upholding and protecting the integral relationship between natural ecosystems and human activity, on and off campus.

WHEREAS, The Grauer School Board of Trustees and Faculty commit to schoolwide sustainability principles that include:

- Consciously looking for opportunities to extend the principles of social and emotional intelligence to include knowledge of and empathy for all living systems and embed these principles in our curriculum and Expeditionary Learning programming.
- Staff, faculty, and students exploring the natural world with which we are interconnected; encouraging and empowering students and faculty to observe and analyze how the choices we make impact the natural world (e.g., commitments on plastic use, recycling, waste management, composting, our carbon offsets, energy production).
- Empowering our student body to commit to climate action resolutions and sustainability principles, and to advocate publicly for a sustainable future.
- Evaluating (along with our students) how our operating policies and daily acts reflect our commitment to sustainability, and making changes to those policies lacking in responsibility.
- In classes and clubs, growing, gathering, and savoring organic food from our school garden, chickens, orchards, etc.
- Learning where our food comes from and supporting farmers and producers in our foodshed who produce sustainably.
- As with our Phase III architectural project, using green building principles, criteria, and strive to serve as a green building model in our community. These sustainability practices enrich our human and natural communities while preparing our students to be leaders in a dynamic world.

WHEREAS The Grauer School Faculty has presented this resolution to The Grauer School Board of Trustees.

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT,

1. The Grauer School Board of Trustees and Faculty declare climate change a generational justice and human rights issue.
2. We commend the board, faculty and student body for furthering our stewardship of the natural world.
3. The Grauer School Board of Trustees and Faculty call on U.S. Congress to swiftly enact national policies to restore the climate for the good of young people and of future generations.
4. We thank the school boards and fellow independent schools and their faculties and student bodies who have already spoken up for climate justice by passing their own climate action resolutions. We encourage the independent school community and the National Association of Independent Schools to adopt similar climate change resolutions, calling on Congress to enact climate policies to protect current and future students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Grauer School Board of Trustees and Faculty call on Congress to take swift and effective action on climate change. (Possible actions to protect current and future students include 100% clean energy plans, green infrastructure and technology investments, and investments in regenerative agriculture and forestry to draw down CO2 from the atmosphere and sequester in soils and biomass.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Grauer School Board of Trustees and Faculty shall transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: The Grauer School Parent Association, the School public website, Encinitas City Council, National Association of Independent Schools, all California members of Congress and the Schools for Climate Action campaign.

Passed Unanimously on August 22, 2019

ACKNOWLEDGED AS REVIEWED AND APPROVED ON THIS 22ND DAY OF AUGUST, 2019