

PROCLAMATION
AUSD Vision for Science Education
April 28

WHEREAS, Bay Science, a group of teacher leaders in science, worked in collaboration with the Lawrence Hall of Science to increase teacher expertise; and

WHEREAS, we know that students need a high level of scientific understanding to succeed in school and to be prepared for the demands of the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, scientific literacy is critical for college and work readiness in the emerging knowledge economy; and

WHEREAS, a broad foundation of science learning is critical for the nation's capacity to innovate for economic growth and a modern workforce; and

WHEREAS, the National Research Council (NRC), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and stakeholders at the state level and nationwide have collaborated to develop the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to reflect major advances in science and our expanded understanding of how students learn science; and

WHEREAS, AUSD desires to provide a comprehensive and high quality science program that prepares all students for success in rigorous post-secondary science courses and subsequent careers; and

WHEREAS, AUSD desires to teach students to use their understanding of the natural world to solve important problems, improve their lives, and make their world a better place; and

WHEREAS, AUSD teachers and administrators must plan together to realize this vision; and

WHEREAS, AUSD students should engage in exploration and discovery throughout their daily curriculum, relate science topics to their daily lives and in solving real world problems, and demonstrate evidence of deep learning and critical thinking in the ways they engage with the content and apply their science knowledge at higher levels; and

WHEREAS, AUSD teachers should foster a science rich environment in every classroom, increase instructional time spent on science to be roughly equivalent to time devoted to other core disciplines, use high-quality science curriculum at every grade level, and use pedagogy that engages and inspires students to high achievement in scientific studies and to consider careers in science; and

WHEREAS, AUSD teachers should also deepen and expand the foundation of scientific learning developed in previous grades, direct students towards the application of scientific principles and use of scientific language and literacy skills, take advantage of the convergences among Common Core math and literacy standards and Next Generation Science Standards when planning instruction, and provide multiple opportunities for students to develop speaking and listening skills in order to make meaning from science experiences and to engage in the practices of science and engineering; and

WHEREAS, AUSD schools must have access to adequate resources for teaching science, support for teachers through access to adopted science instructional materials, a system for maintaining and updating these materials, and adequate time for planning and improving science instruction; and

WHEREAS, AUSD must establish and deploy science leadership teams to share lessons learned from innovative programs and to provide professional development and support teachers as needed; and

WHEREAS, AUSD must provide new teachers training in implementing the adopted science curriculum, support all teachers in planning cross-disciplinary instruction and meeting current standards for both science and literacy, and structure meaningful opportunities for collaboration to improve student learning in science that includes observation, reflection, and feedback on teacher practice; and

WHEREAS, all stakeholders - students, teachers, administrators, school board, parents, and community - understand the rationale for the district emphasis on science so the vision for science is communicated widely at both the district and site levels.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Alameda Unified School District Board of Education proclaims April 28th as AUSD Vision for Science Education Day.


PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of April, by the following vote:

AYES: 4 MEMBERS: Henneberry, Hu, Kahn, Lyons
NOES: 0 MEMBERS: _____
ABSENT: 1 MEMBERS: Tam

ATTEST:

By:


Sean McPhetridge, Superintendent
Secretary of the Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District


Barbara Kahn, President
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California