



Civic Learning School Board Resolution

The Board of Education
Pittsburg Unified School District
Resolution 18-55

Theme: Promoting today's students to be tomorrow's leaders

WHEREAS: The success of our Nation and State depends on educated, informed and engaged citizens and residents, and California currently ranks 38th of 50 states in civic engagement;

WHEREAS: Pittsburg Unified has a fundamental interest in promoting civic agency and instilling in students the duty of citizenship; likewise,

WHEREAS: It is the goal of Pittsburg Unified School District to prepare all of our students for college, career and civic life;

WHEREAS: There has never been a better – or more crucial time – to revitalize civic learning in our schools; as we implement sweeping changes, we cannot leave civic learning behind;

WHEREAS: Schools are a critical place for students to develop the civic knowledge, skills and values needed to effectively participate in our democracy, and research demonstrates that six core activities – known as the Six Proven Practices in Civic Learning – directly improve the quality and effectiveness of civic learning in schools. These practices are: classroom instruction in government, history, law and democracy; discussion of current events; service-learning; extra-curricular or co-curricular activities; student voice in school governance; and simulations of democratic processes;

WHEREAS: We can gain the benefits of a vibrant and informed civic life and democracy, high quality civic learning also helps teach children the skills they need for the 21st century workplace, such as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, initiative, and innovation.

WHEREAS: The Common Core State Standards in History/Social Science framework requires that students learn to analyze multiple perspectives and be able to determine the central ideas or information of a primary and secondary source; and

WHEREAS: through civic learning, students are empowered to become agents of change for the betterment of their local communities and society more generally; moreover,

WHEREAS: the district currently makes it possible for our students to be a part of civic learning through student government or the Associated Student Bodies (ASB), where students are able to run for officer positions, represent their peers and have a voice in student government; and

WHEREAS: the act of being politically involved is a hallmark of democracy and should be fostered in an environment where students feel safe and willing to participate; essentially,

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of Pittsburg Unified School District will lead by example on what good participatory citizenship looks like by actively reaching out to our constituents, including students; carefully considering the needs and wishes of parents and students; thoroughly deliberating issues that come before us, working collaboratively, and appropriately delegating and supporting the Superintendent in carrying out the vision of the District so that the students' interests are best served.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Superintendent will provide the Board of Education via a Friday letter ways in which civic learning is taking place in our schools, specific to the school sites within Pittsburg Unified School District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Superintendent will ensure that resources are available to assist schools and teachers with revitalizing civic learning within our schools and our school district.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, on February 6, 2019 at a regular meeting of the Board of Education by the following vote:

AYES: 3
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

Duane Smith, Board President