



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item 7.2

Meeting Date: December 6, 2018

Subject: Approve Resolution No. 3045: Poor Air Quality Monitoring and Guidance

- ☐ Information Item Only
- ☐ Approval on Consent Agenda
- ☐ Conference (for discussion only)
- ☐ Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- ☐ Conference/Action
- ☒ Action
- ☐ Public Hearing

Division: Board Office

Recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 3045: Poor Air Quality Monitoring and Guidance.

Background/Rationale: Sacramento, and large parts of Northern California, experienced very unhealthy and hazardous air quality due to the smoke from camp fire burning about 100 miles north near the City of Paradise, California. As the air quality worsened the District found itself trying to figure out what the healthiest options were for the students. The District could monitor outdoor air quality, but they could not monitor how much smoke was accumulating in classrooms. They also did not have guidance on when and how school should be canceled based on air quality. The resolution calls for the creation of a Board Policy that provides the necessary direction to staff and families as to when schools should be canceled based on outdoor as well as indoor air quality. This resolution also requires staff to pursue grant funding for indoor air quality monitors, outline partnerships to help provide indoor air filtered shelters in emergency situations, and develop a long term plan to insure proper filtration systems are in place in the district's aging school sites.

Financial Considerations: None

LCAP Goal(s): Family and Community Empowerment; Safe, Emotionally Healthy and Engaged Students

Documents Attached:

1. Resolution No. 3045

Estimated Time of Presentation: 5 minutes

Submitted by: Jessie Ryan, Board Member, Trustee Area 7

Approved by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION NO. 3045

POOR AIR QUALITY MONITORING AND GUIDANCE

WHEREAS, smoke from the recent Camp fire caused Northern California to have the poorest outdoor air quality in the world, according to the air quality monitoring network Purple Air; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act of 1977 called for a daily air quality monitoring tool based on a uniform air quality index, and today's Air Quality Index contains six categories of air quality that include *Good*, *Moderate*, *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups*, *Unhealthy*, *Very Unhealthy*, and *Hazardous*; and

WHEREAS, *Very Unhealthy* and *Hazardous* air Quality was reported on multiple days within Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) boundaries during the week of November 12, 2018; and

WHEREAS, SCUSD, along with multiple districts in Sacramento County and across Northern California, chose to cancel school on Friday, November 16, 2018 due to prolonged levels of *Hazardous* air quality; and

WHEREAS, particulate matter can have grave effects on the lungs, heart and immune system; and

WHEREAS, research finds that children, older adults, individuals with certain health conditions, and communities with low-socioeconomic status are most affected by poor air quality; and

WHEREAS, very little formal guidance was given to SCUSD and other school districts as to when school closures should occur due to poor air quality, or if the California Department of Education would provide those districts with a waiver for the lost revenue from attendance; and

WHEREAS, the district believes that remaining in school whenever possible is likely the best option for most students and families who rely upon our school sites for meals, a safe learning environment and before and after school care except in extraordinary circumstances including but not limited to when air quality conditions are deemed to be *Hazardous*; and

WHEREAS, the district lacked the infrastructure and capacity to monitor indoor air quality at sites as outdoor particulate matter slowly crept into school buildings and accumulated; and

WHEREAS, SCUSD had no knowledge of filtered air shelters that could be provided to families when school was not in session in order to safeguard students and families from hazardous air quality; and

WHEREAS, scientists believe extreme wildfires in California will become more frequent in the coming years due to the effects of climate change, and as such, Sacramento City Unified School District must prepare accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education does hereby urgently request that a Board Policy be developed that provides the necessary direction to staff and families as to when schools should be canceled, based on outdoor as well as indoor air quality. The policy shall require staff to pursue grant funding for indoor air quality monitors, outline partnerships to help provide indoor air filtered shelters in emergency situations, and a long term plan to insure proper filtration systems are in place in the district's aging school sites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, SCUSD shall work with neighboring districts and education and health agencies to develop and promote the policy and related resources in order to safeguard our students and communities against the negative health impacts of *Very Unhealthy* and *Hazardous* air quality.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 6th day of December, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES _____
NOES _____
ABSTAIN _____
ABSENT _____

ATTESTED TO:

Jorge A. Aguilar
Superintendent

Jessie Ryan
President of the Board of Education