DIVISION: SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2015

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN THE MATTER OF SUPPORT FOR CIVIC INSTRUCTION: COLLEGE, CAREER AND CIVIC SOCIETY

PROPOSAL: It is proposed that the Board of Education approve the resolution in the matter of support for Civic Instruction: College, Career and Civic Society as presented on Item 111 (2) of the December 10, 2015, board book.

JUSTIFICATION: To support civic instruction and consciousness for our students to develop their civic values and skills to contribute to and participate in our democracy.

REFERENCE: California Civics Initiative

FISCAL IMPACT: There will be no additional costs to the general fund budget.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: . . . that the Board of Education approve the resolution in the matter of support for Civic Instruction: College, Career and Civic Society as presented on Item 111 (2-3) of the December 10, 2015, board book.
BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN THE MATTER OF SUPPORT FOR CIVIC INSTRUCTION: COLLEGE, CAREER AND CIVIC SOCIETY

WHEREAS, the mission of the Bellflower Unified School District includes that all students will graduate with the abilities to become responsible, informed, productive, independent and contributing citizens, and to perform successfully in their chosen field and in society. We currently prepare our students for their future civic duty by affording students community services hours; and

WHEREAS, schools are the essential means for students to develop their civic values, consciousness and skills to contribute to and participate in our democracy. It is essential as we continue to implement the California Standards that we support civic instruction and consciousness.

WHEREAS, the success and progress of our nation and state depends on educated, informed and engaged citizens; and

WHEREAS, the educational system has a major role in ensuring that students have equitable access to instruction regarding participation and obligation in our democracy. We emphasize civic opportunities that contribute to the fulfillment of these goals; and

WHEREAS, we as a community, state and nation have much to gain by emphasizing high standards civic instruction that encourages students to think critically, collaborate, assess and synthesize information, develop research skills and present coherent arguments based on reason and data. Meaningful civic instruction also cultivates 21st Century workplace skills (team effort; cooperation; shared leadership) among our students; and

WHEREAS, the National Council for Social Studies framework provided the six practices format to enhance our K-12 civics educational process:

- Classroom instruction: history, geography, democracy, government and economics; and
- Discussion of current events and controversial issues;
- Service learning experiences that directly link to curriculum and instruction;
- Extracurricular activities;
- Student participation in school governance; and
- Simulations of the democratic processes; and

WHEREAS, the district currently invites our students participation in student government through the Associated Student Bodies (ASB) in which students run for elective officer positions and have a voice in their own government; and

WHEREAS, the California Standards in History/Social Science require that students learn to analyze multiple perspectives and be able to ascertain the central ideas or information of a primary and/or secondary source; and

WHEREAS, the students attending Bellflower Unified School District are offered multiple opportunities to develop and test their knowledge for analyzing primary and secondary sources through focused document based scrutiny and assessment; and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Education of the Bellflower Unified School District requests that the Superintendent and staff commit to continue the development of civic literacy for its students by integrating the six aforementioned practices into the instructional curriculum and student body exchanges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Education of the Bellflower Unified School District lead by example by actively reaching out to community members, 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' interest are best served.


BOARD OF EDUCATION
BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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