RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is the Mission of San Diego Unified School District that All San Diego students will Graduate with the Skills, Motivation, Curiosity and resilience to Succeed in their choice of College and Career in order to Lead and Participate in the society of Tomorrow. We are currently preparing our students by offering them community service hours to promote the importance of civic duty; and

WHEREAS, schools are a critical place for students to develop the civic knowledge, skills and values needed to effectively contribute to and participate in our democracy. There has never been a better – or more crucial time – to revitalize civic learning in our schools; as we implement Common Core State Standards, we cannot leave civic learning behind; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the education system has a major role in ensuring students have equitable access to learning to participate in our democracy. Revitalizing civic learning opportunities can contribute to meeting these goals; and

WHEREAS, we have much to gain by revitalizing high quality civic learning that encourages students to think critically, collaborate, develop research skills, assess and synthesize information, and present coherent arguments based on data. High quality civic learning also helps teach our students skills needed for the 21st century workplace including creativity, initiative and innovation; and

WHEREAS, the National Council for Social Studies framework providing guidance to enhance the rigor of K-12 civics education has identified Six Proven Practices in Civic Learning:
- Classroom instruction in government, history, geography, law, democracy and economics;
- Discussion of current events and controversial issues;
- Service learning experiences that are directly linked to curriculum and instruction;
- Extracurricular activities;
- Student participation in school governance; and
- Simulations of democratic processes; and

WHEREAS, the district currently makes it possible for our students to be part of student government through Associated Student Bodies (ASB) where students run for officer positions and have a voice in student government; and

WHEREAS; the Common Core standards in History/Social Science work require 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, the students in San Diego Unified are being offered multiple opportunities to test their knowledge of analyzing primary and secondary sources through document based questioning and assessments that focus on primary and secondary sources; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of San Diego Unified School District requests that the Superintendent and staff make a commitment to work towards developing civic literacy of all its students by integrating the Six Proven Practices into instructional practice and school life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District establishes a goal to make schools aware of and encourage participation in the application for the annual Civic Learning Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a civic learning plan will be developed to include, but not be limited to, integrating civic learning into English Language Arts/English Language Development for all students across grade levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of San Diego Unified School District lead by example on what good participatory citizenship looks like by actively reaching out to 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 of Public Education in carrying out the vision of the District so that the students’ interests are best served.

Adopted and approved by the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District at a regular meeting held on the 14th of April 2015.

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President                                                                                   Vice President

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Member                                                                                      Member

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Member                                                                                      Superintendent