

RESOLUTION No. 03-061820

IN SUPPORT OF DIGITAL ACCESS AND INCLUSION

WHEREAS, closing the digital divide and increasing access to the Internet is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for residents in Santa Clara County and throughout California; and

WHEREAS, the Mountain View Whisman Board of Trustees finds and declares that broadband Internet access, including both wired and wireless technologies, is essential to 21st century infrastructure in a digital world and global economy; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County is home to the Silicon Valley and is at the center of technology innovation, yet there are persisting broadband connectivity gaps in the county; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30% of students in Santa Clara County have no or limited access to broadband Internet at home and the majority of the students live in low-income households; and

WHEREAS, a key driver of the digital divide is affordability; and

WHEREAS, the Mountain View Whisman Board of Trustees are committed to helping students obtain a high-quality education that incorporates digital literacy; and

WHEREAS, broadband Internet and computing devices at both school and at home are critical teaching and learning tools for academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, schools are implementing distance learning in response to COVID-19 and families need access to vital services such as virtual medicine, applying for benefits and more; and

WHEREAS, the Mountain View Whisman Board of Trustees support digital inclusion as a means to bridge the achievement and homework gaps created by economic disparity; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the opportunity to impact deployment and adoption of broadband internet through its role as a policy leader, planning body, land use approval agency, purchaser-consumer of communications equipment and information technology, and a service provider; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountain View Whisman Board of Trustees urge local governments to invest in infrastructure to ensure that all residents are connected to the internet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mountain View Whisman Board of Trustees urge local governments to support digital access and inclusion by enabling free or low cost, high-speed, 1 gigabit or faster broadband service in low-income communities, and increasing access to hardware, including tablets and laptops, for low-income residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Mountain View Whisman Board of Trustees urge local, state, and federal governments to identify and complete urgent short-term and long-term infrastructure solutions to address the digital divide for low-income residents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS by the Mountain View Whisman Governing Board on June 18th, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

I, José Gutiérrez, Jr., Clerk of the Governing Board of the Mountain View Whisman School District, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a meeting thereof held at its regular place of meeting on the date shown above and by the vote above stated.

_____ Clerk of the Board of Education