

STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 17, 2009
TO: City Council
FROM: Kelly Stachowicz, Deputy City Manager
SUBJECT: Resolution Establishing Green Schools Partnership

Recommendation

Approve resolution establishing Green Schools Partnership with Davis Joint Unified School District

Fiscal Impact

Undetermined.

Background and Analysis

The Davis Joint Unified School District appointed a Green Schools Subcommittee in June of 2008. This Subcommittee includes two District Board members (Richard Harris and Tim Taylor), faculty and staff from the school district, and a few community members. The group has met regularly over the past nine months and put forward resolutions for the Davis City Council and DJUSD Board of Trustees to establish a “Green Schools” Partnership. The Subcommittee approved the draft resolutions on March 10, 2009 and have sent both to the City and the District for review and approval. The District resolution will be on the Board Agenda on March 19.

The resolution describes sustainable initiatives by the City and the District and resolves that the City will be a partner and co-sponsor with the District in the Green Schools program. The resolution gives four specific examples of interagency coordination:

- Promoting increased bike ridership and coordination with Suggested Routes to School and with Street Smarts.
- Increasing energy and water efficiency in joint use facilities through coordination with city maintenance and operational procedures and practices.
- Involving City planning staff in projects to build or promote renewable energy generation.
- Promoting the City’s goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through programs to provide educational and informational opportunities.

The resolution establishes a partnership with the District to achieve a common goal: a community that is green and sustainable. It does not provide specifics as to how this partnership will be implemented nor does it request particular action items for the City or the District. The resolution instead provides a framework within which individual action items can be explored and acted upon if appropriate.

Staff has heard two specific examples of actions/requests that could fall into the partnership framework. The first is District use of City facilities for events that are specific to the Green Schools Partnership. Providing a facility to the District free of charge would result in potential loss of revenue to the City (if that facility could have been rented out to a paying user), as well as the cost of staff time if using certain facilities. The second example is that of utilizing the city utility bills as a means of soliciting donations for the Green Schools efforts. Challenges arise when those donations come into the City for processing and dispersal, not to mention the precedent it sets when the City allows one group to advertise for donations.

While staff is supportive of the premise of the resolution, we would recommend that individual requests and actions falling into the auspices of a Green Schools Partnership still funnel through the appropriate city channels for direction and decision.

Attachments

- Draft City Resolution
- Draft DJUSD Resolution (for informational purposes only)

RESOLUTION 09-XXX

**ESTABLISHING A “GREEN SCHOOLS” PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE DAVIS JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the City of Davis has, by resolution, joined the Climate Protection Campaign, the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, the Yolo County Climate Change Compact, and has otherwise indicated its firm intention to implement policies and actions to respond to climate change and global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions both in its own operations as well as in the community; and

WHEREAS, The City has adopted a “Sustainability Framework Strategy” which includes development of a community outreach program; and

WHEREAS, the City has formed a Climate Action Team, one of the activities of which is to “generate innovative approaches and comprehensive strategies to address the City’s goal of significantly reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of the City and the community as a whole”; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District on June 18, 2008 enacted Resolution No. 61-08, the Yolo County and Green Schools Action Compact committing the District to conducting an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions from District facilities, establishment of a goal to reduce these emissions, development of a plan to meet these goals and targets, and implementation of programs and policies to carry out the plan; and

WHEREAS, at the Board of Trustees meeting on June 18, 2008, the Trustees also created the Green Schools Subcommittee to advise the Board of Trustees regarding programs and policies to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from District facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Green Schools program is an opportunity for partnership in furtherance of the goals and objectives of the City of Davis to inventory community energy use and develop community-based programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the City and District agree to work together with other community organizations, businesses, and institutions to promote and participate in the May is Bike Month campaign and set and achieve a Davis community goal of 100,000 bike miles ridden in the Month of May;

WHEREAS, implementation of the Green Schools program necessarily requires coordination and partnership with the City of Davis. For example:

1. Green Schools projects to encourage a reduction in “vehicle miles travelled” in the community through promoting increased bike ridership to and from school and after-

school activities requires coordination with the City of Davis Safe Routes to School and Smart Streets programs;

2. Green Schools programs to increase energy and water efficiency in joint use facilities and programs requires coordination with city maintenance and operational procedures and practices;
3. Green Schools projects to build or promote renewable energy generation requires involvement by City planning staff;
4. Green Schools programs to provide educational and informational opportunities promote the City's goals of reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Green Schools program is extending the highly successful RISE (Recycling is Simply Elementary), Farm-to-School, and school site-based student garden projects, which also involve close cooperation with the City of Davis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Davis participate as a partner and co-sponsor of the Green Schools program.

Passed and adopted this _____ day of _____ 2009.

AYES:

NOES:

Ruth Uy Asmundson, PhD
Mayor

ATTEST:

Zoe Mirabile, CMC
City Clerk

DJUSD DRAFT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A “GREEN SCHOOLS” PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF DAVIS

WHEREAS, the Trustees of the Davis Joint Unified School District on June 18, 2008 enacted Resolution No. 61-08, the Yolo County and Green Schools Action Compact; and

WHEREAS, the Compact committed the District to conduct an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions from District facilities, establish a goal of reducing these emissions, develop a plan to meet these goals and targets, and implement programs and policies to carry out the plan; and

WHEREAS, at the Board meeting on June 18, 2008 the Trustees also created the Green Schools Subcommittee to advise the Board of Trustees regarding programs and policies to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from District facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Green Schools Subcommittee has established a program to create “Green Teams” at each school site to promote sustainable practices and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Green Schools program necessarily requires coordination and partnership with the City of Davis, in terms of programs to encourage reduced vehicle miles travelled in the community through increased bike ridership by students, faculty and staff, as well as increased energy and water efficiency in joint use facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, Green Schools projects to increase bike ridership will necessarily require coordination with the City of Davis Safe Routes to School and Smart Streets programs, and Green Schools projects to build or promote renewable energy generation will require involvement by City planning staff; and

WHEREAS, the Green Schools program is extending the highly successful RISE (Recycling is Simply Elementary), Farm-to-School, and school site-based student garden projects, which also involve close cooperation with the City of Davis; and

WHEREAS, the Green Schools program is an opportunity for partnership in furtherance of the goals and objectives of the City of Davis to inventory community energy use and develop community-based programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Davis Joint Unified School District invites the City of Davis to participate in the Green Schools program as a partner and co-sponsor.

Passed and adopted this _____ day of _____ 2009.

DjUSD/reso-019