

BOARD RESOLUTION #17-33
DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

WHEREAS, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was implemented in 2012 by the Administration of then-President Barack H. Obama; and

WHEREAS, the DACA program offered work authorization and a renewable two-year reprieve from deportation to unauthorized immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and met specific eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible for the DACA program, some of the requirements for applicants included having entered the United States prior to the age of 16, being enrolled in school, having earned a high school diploma or its equivalent or being an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), as of March 2017, some 887,000 individuals had applied for DACA and 788,000 applications had been approved; and

WHEREAS, according to Pew Research Center, there are 222,795 DACA recipients in California, more than a quarter of the program's total; and

WHEREAS, approximately 25,000 DACA recipients reside in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, according to the Migration Policy Institute, one-third of all DACA recipients are enrolled in high school, one-fifth are enrolled in college, and one-fourth are enrolled in college and working at the same time; and

WHEREAS, according to the Migration Policy Institute, DACA recipients are better educated, earn more, and are employed in more white-collar work environments than their non-DACA eligible peers; and

WHEREAS, DACA recipients are commonly referred to as "Dreamers;" and

WHEREAS, as reported by the *New York Times*, results from a survey conducted by University of California, San Diego professor Tom K. Wong show that the current age range of so-called Dreamers is between 16 and 35, with the median age of entry into the United States being six years old; and

WHEREAS, public schools in California and across the country are obligated to educate any and all students who enroll, based on Supreme Court decisions in cases such as 1982's *Plyler v. Doe*; and

WHEREAS, public schools are an important part of the successful assimilation of Dreamers into American society and into the American workforce; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2017, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions, speaking on behalf of President Donald J. Trump, announced that, without action by Congress to approve legislation to formally create or replace the DACA program, the current program would cease to exist within six months, or by March 2018; and

WHEREAS, this announcement by the current Administration has reportedly caused panic and distress in the DACA-eligible community and for many undocumented students and families throughout California; and

WHEREAS, the uncertainty over DACA is reportedly creating a “chilling effect” that discourages some undocumented students from attending schools, as is their legal right, or in after school support, intervention, and enrichment programs, and creates fear among parents that drives them away from important family engagement activities; and

WHEREAS, diminished attendance jeopardizes the ability of schools to prepare all students for the demands of the 21st century and success in college, career and civic life; and

WHEREAS, there are no fewer than four separate bills pending in Congress to address the DACA program, including the bipartisan “DREAM Act,” sponsored by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) to expand eligibility for conditional residency to 1.8 million immigrants, including all DACA recipients, who entered the United States before the age of 18 and who have been in the country longer than four years, and the Republican-sponsored “Recognizing America’s Children Act,” which would provide conditional residency for immigrants who arrived in this country before the age of 16 and who have been in the country for five years; and

WHEREAS, more than 400 Chief Executive Officers of America’s largest corporations, including the CEOs of such companies as AT&T, Best Buy, Amazon, Apple, Wells Fargo, Microsoft, Facebook and Alphabet, have signed a letter calling upon President Trump to “preserve the DACA program,” and calling upon Congress to “pass the bipartisan DREAM Act or legislation that provides these young people raised in our country the permanent solution they deserve;” and

WHEREAS, the letter signed by more than 400 CEOs states that “97% (of DACA participants) are in school or in the workforce” and that without these Dreamers, “the US economy would lose \$460.3 billion from the national GDP and \$24.6 billion in Social Security and Medicare tax contributions.”

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing board of the Santa Clara Unified School District calls upon the United States Congress, including all members of the California delegation, to work with President Donald J. Trump to enact legislation prior to March 2018 that would, at a minimum, continue the existing DACA program and provide DACA recipients with a pathway to permanent residence and eventually to US Citizenship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution, with a cover letter, will be provided immediately to all members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate who represent California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution, with a cover letter, will be provided immediately to House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution, with a cover letter, will be provided immediately to President Donald J. Trump and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution will be made available to members of the public and press upon request and also transmitted to the California School Boards Association.

Adopted this ____ day of the month of _____ in 2017

Motion made by: _____

Second made by: _____

List members voting "aye:" _____

List members voting "no:" _____

List members abstaining: _____

List members not present: _____

Andrew Ratermann, President
Santa Clara Unified School District

Dr. Stanley Rose III, Superintendent
Santa Clara Unified School District