

Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education

RESOLUTION 17-036

Proclaiming School Year 2016-2017 as

The Year of The Reader in Berkeley Unified School District

WHEREAS, reading opens doors and windows of opportunity, providing children a way to improve their knowledge, expand their awareness of many perspectives and cultures, let their imaginations fly, have fun, find new ways to express their ideas, and become experts on a variety of subjects;

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Unified School District is committed to ensuring that every student becomes a proficient and engaged reader, and reading and literacy skills are at the heart of what is needed to close the gaps in opportunity and achievement for many of our children;

WHEREAS, continuous reading can increase a child's vocabulary and help develop critical thinking skills such as observing, interpreting and evaluating, leading to a higher level of academic access and success, and becoming a successful reader is beneficial in every subject area and career path;

WHEREAS, our Berkeley public school libraries, which are entirely funded by the local BSEP tax, are important centers of learning, cultivating an appreciation for literature and fostering development of research skills and information literacy, with 1,000 books and audiobooks checked out every week;

WHEREAS, reading at home and with family members is key to building a strong and lifelong love of reading, and reading together also provides a quiet escape from our often hectic and overscheduled lives, and a partnership between school and home is needed to ensure all students have opportunities to read for exploration, for fun, and in support of academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Unified School District is committing this school year to an initiative to encourage all students and families to become active readers with a series of school, district, and community-wide events and resources, including: Family Literacy Workshops, Author Visits, *Newbery Award* Programs, Book Fairs, a *Books to Home* Program, materials for English Learners, Book Giveaways, Summer Reading programs, additional training for staff in reading development, a *Year of the Reader* website, and frequent messages and accessible resources for families to encourage reading at home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education that the School Year 2016-17 be declared *The Year of The Reader* in the Berkeley Unified School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be distributed to all school sites, translated into Spanish, and given a prominent place on the District's website.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Berkeley Unified School District, this 21st day of September, 2016 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING:

ATTEST:

Judy Appel, Clerk