

Mr. Melvoin, Ms. Gonez - Celebrating our Emergency Responders (Res-051-24/25) (Waiver of Board Rule 72)

Whereas, The Palisades fire and the Eaton fire broke out on January 7, 2025 and caused road closures, power outages, and mandatory evacuation orders for surrounding areas. Together, these wildfires scorched over 34,000 acres, destroying thousands of homes and damaging Los Angeles Unified School District (District) schools and property;

Whereas, Along with the Palisades fire and the Eaton fire, the Hurst fire in Sylmar and additional fires in the Hollywood hills and elsewhere have displaced families and students. More than 170,000 people were under mandatory evacuation notices;

Whereas, These wildfires have damaged dozens of school buildings and have displaced thousands of students, families, and District staff—many of whom were evacuated and tragically lost their homes;

Whereas, More than 400,000 people in and around Los Angeles lost power due to the wildfires, high wind, and proactive shutoffs, adding further disruption and difficulty;

Whereas, In the wake of the wildfires, the District closed schools starting Wednesday, January 8 due to poor air quality resulting from the fires. Students and staff were evacuated thanks to the heroic efforts of our school and operations staff who got everyone safely onto the buses, and our School Bus Drivers and first responders who safely evacuated everyone from the school sites. Schools remained closed on Thursday and Friday;

Whereas, Food Services provided student meals via a Grab & Go sites to ensure impacted students and families could access essential food resources during the emergency;

Whereas, starting on Monday, January 13, the District began to reopen schools representing a momentous return to normalcy in the wake of unimaginable turmoil and upheaval caused by the wildfires;

Whereas, Extensive work was needed to prepare schools for a safe reopening, including but not limited to replacing air filters, checking HVAC systems, clearing up debris, wiping down tables and chairs, and much more;

Whereas, Schools were safely reopened thanks to the tireless work of District employees and staff including members of Teamsters Local 572, SEIU Local 99, UTLA, AALA, CSEA, Building Trades and Construction, and School Police;

Whereas, Thanks to the teachers and ~~paraeducators~~ paraprofessionals who returned to classrooms, classified and certificated substitutes who helped provide coverage for displaced employees, the countless individuals who worked around the clock over the weekend including administrators, as well as school police, first responders and bus

drivers, and local authorities who ensured the safety of school communities, the District was able to restore regular school schedules and instruction; now; therefore be it

Resolved, The Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District hereby recognizes and acknowledges the tireless and courageous work of our essential workers and District employees who remained committed to our schools in the face of the destructive wildfires in Los Angeles to ensure schools were safe and clean for students; and, be it finally

Resolved, The District will provide resources for families and employees impacted by the wildfires including transportation support, housing assistance, and childcare. Those in need can access the District's Family and Community Recovery Guide and Resources Flyer to learn more and access services.