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For Immediate Release

Los Angeles Unified Board of Education Unanimously Approves Board Member Nick Melvoin's Resolution to Take Environmental Action for Clean Air Day

LOS ANGELES, CA – October 1, 2019 – The Los Angeles Unified Board of Education voted unanimously today to approve Board Member Nick Melvoin's resolution, promoting "Clean Air Day" with action steps to protect the health and safety of students and school communities from the harmful effects of air pollution. Efforts include partnering with the Coalition for Clean Air and our district's Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) to provide more air quality monitoring devices to schools, designating "idle-free" zones where feasible and providing school communities with information about how to reduce their own carbon footprint.

"Less than two weeks ago, young people across the world raised their voices to demand that the adults in charge do more to protect our planet from the damaging effects of climate change," Board Member Nick Melvoin said, who supported the student-led movement. "With this initiative, I want all these students to know: we hear you."

"Everyone has a right to breathe clean air, and this is especially important at our schools," said Dr. Joe Lyu, Executive Director of the Coalition for Clean Air. "By raising awareness and actively working to reduce air pollution, Los Angeles Unified can help ensure that every breath is a breath of clean air for our students."

"It is important for our district to take a stand and be an example when it comes to health and safety for our students," Board President Dr. Richard Vladovic said. "Protecting our planet and making sure our students know about how we can be mindful about improving the environment is the right thing to do. Let's encourage our students to think of green-friendly alternatives in their everyday lives."

"Student wellness is a prerequisite to student achievement," Board Member Mónica García said. "Thank you to advocates and educators in our communities who are raising awareness and making this a priority in their schools and classrooms."

"Every school leader understands that learning begins with healthy students," Board Member Scott M. Schmerelson said. "I am proud to promote and support efforts to provide cleaner environments for our schools and help our students learn about how to promote a healthy, sustainable future."

“At a time when our climate is rapidly changing, it’s important that our district take collective action in reducing our ecological footprint,” Board Member Kelly Gonez said. “I’m proud that our district recognizes the effects of air pollution on our children and is taking proactive steps in creating environment-conscious campuses.”

“In the past year, we’ve reduced consumption of electricity, water and natural gas,” Superintendent Austin Beutner said. “We’re expanding programs to teach students about the environment and become advocates for a greener future. All of us in education have to continue to work to raise awareness of the issue and help develop solutions to these issues.”

Nick Melvoin is proud to serve the dynamic communities of District 4 on the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. Nick’s election to the Board in May of 2017 follows a career fighting for our city’s schoolchildren. He believes that together, with the right leadership, we can ensure that every student in Los Angeles has the opportunity to succeed. Los Angeles Unified Board District 4 includes the communities of Brentwood, Del Rey, East Hollywood, Encino, Hollywood, Mar Vista, Marina Del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Playa Del Rey, Playa Vista, Tarzana, Toluca Lake, Topanga, Westchester, West Hollywood, Westwood, Woodland Hills, and Venice.

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