

## NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

### RESOLUTION NO. 12-2016/2017

#### RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STRONG STARTS FOR ALL OF MARIN'S CHILDREN

**WHEREAS**, access to quality preschool, comprehensive health care and wellness services, childcare and afterschool academic support is linked to higher academic achievement, successful careers and healthy, economically vibrant communities; and

**WHEREAS**, preschool boosts academic achievement and makes children more likely to start school ready, stay in school and graduate saving our local economy about \$11,400 per child; and

**WHEREAS**, making sure all children have access to medical, dental, mental health services and healthy nutrition is key to foster lifelong health, help catch problems early, promote regular school attendance and assure all our children are healthier; and

**WHEREAS**, affordable, quality childcare provides a nurturing environment for brain development while enabling parents to support their families; and

**WHEREAS**, access to affordable, quality childcare reduces the burden on working families, increases family self-sufficiency, and improves economic productivity; and

**WHEREAS**, students who attend afterschool and extended learning programs consistently show improvements in academic achievement, are less likely to join gangs, get involved with alcohol and drugs, or drop out of school; and

**WHEREAS**, contrary to popular belief, many Marin County children do not have access to these critical building blocks; and

**WHEREAS**, one out of every three children in Marin does not attend preschool often due to high cost for families; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 50% of Marin's poor children start school ready compared to 75% of children who are not poor – a 27% gap; and

**WHEREAS**, by third grade, 66% of economically disadvantaged children in Marin do not read at grade level; and

**WHEREAS**, 12% of Marin children age two to 11 have never seen a dentist, 20% of Marin's kindergartners did not have required immunizations and only 55% of economically disadvantaged children in Marin are at a healthy weight; and

**WHEREAS**, 30% of families in Marin have an income insufficient to meet basic needs of their family including child care and as many as 800 families are on a wait list and unable to secure affordable childcare in Marin; and

**WHEREAS**, in Marin, 60% fewer children who are poor or racially diverse meet state targets in math and English and generally have unequal access to academic supports such as tutoring; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, several organizations came together to explore the potential for developing a dedicated funding stream that would support essential programs for children in Marin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marin Strong Start Coalition has grown to include local leaders in education, healthcare, business, government, childcare, youth and community services, civic organizations and communities across Marin County ; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014 an Expenditure Committee made up of leaders from communities across Marin, representing key childhood service areas and stakeholder groups convened to develop a specific plan to use potential tax resources to fund preschool for lower income children, provide affordable child care, extend learning opportunities after school and assure every child has access to essential healthcare and wellness services.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Novato Unified School District does hereby support the efforts of the Marin Strong Start Coalition to develop a dedicated funding stream for essential programs for children in Marin, including access to quality preschool, comprehensive health care and wellness services, affordable childcare and afterschool academic support.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016, at the regular meeting of the Novato Unified School Board of Education.

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Attest:   
Clerk, Novato Unified School Board of Trustees