



PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Agenda Backup

Item No: 13.4

Date: August 24, 2011

Item: Resolution #11-12-03 in Support of a Seal of Biliteracy

Overview and Rationale: The Board of Trustees and the District are committed to providing every student with a high school preparation program leading to graduation and college and career path readiness. To this end, PVUSD continues to support a California State Seal of Biliteracy to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of students who meet the established requirements for earning a Seal of Biliteracy, namely demonstrated proficiency in listening, reading, speaking and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

Upon approval, this Resolution will be sent to our legislative representatives as well as our City Council.

Recommendation: Approve Resolution #11-12-03.

Prepared By: Dorma Baker, Superintendent

Superintendent's Signature: Dorma Baker



PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION # 11-12-03

SEAL OF BILITERACY

Whereas, mastery of two or more languages makes important contributions to a student's cognitive development, understanding of diverse cultures, and economic opportunities; and

Whereas, multiple languages are a critical element in enabling our city and state to participate effectively in a global political, social and economic context; and

Whereas, our state is home to speakers from hundreds of different language and cultural groups, and to build trust and understanding across the multiple language and cultural groups in our diverse community requires multi-lingual skills of communication; and

Whereas, Pajaro Valley Unified School District serves many students who are bilingual and on May 28, 2011 we honored 28 of our biliterate students for the first time with the Seal of Biliteracy Award upon demonstrating proficiency in English as well as in languages such as Spanish, Japanese and French; and

Whereas, The demand for employees to be fluent in more than one language is increasing both in California and throughout the world; and

Whereas, the California Master Plan for Education calls for pupils to graduate literate in two or more languages; and

Whereas, the California State Seal of Biliteracy has been supported by the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE), California Tomorrow, California Together, California School Boards Association (CSBA), the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), the California Teachers Association (CTA), the California PTA, among others; and

Whereas, The purpose of the California State Seal of Biliteracy would be as follows:

1. To encourage pupils to develop biliteracy skills,
2. To provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills,
3. To recognize and honor California's rich and diverse language assets; and

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Pajaro Valley Unified School District and its Board of Education supports the establishment of a California State Seal of Biliteracy to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of pupils. The Seal would be established to recognize high school graduates who have attained functional proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing skills in one or more languages as well as proficiency in English, and to provide recognition of the attainment of those needed and important skills.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2011 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ____; NAYS: ____; ABSTENTIONS: ____; ABSENT: ____

Willie Yahiro, President of the Board