

August 26, 2003; Introduced by David Tokofsky

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Unified School District established itself at the forefront of public agency procurement reform by implementing a "No Sweat" Procurement Policy on July 1, 2003. This policy resulted from a unanimous vote of the Board on January 15, 2003 to develop a policy to "ensure that District contractors and sub-contractors do not employ child labor or sweatshop labor"; and

WHEREAS, this policy is broad in scope and applies to all goods procured by central procurement and the Associated Student Body; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the policy will be greatly enhanced by the development of effective enforcement mechanisms and the consideration of a non-poverty wage, both domestically and internationally; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles directs the Superintendent to establish an effective mechanism to enforce the No Sweat procurement policy that includes the assignment of qualified district personnel, the issuance of an RFP with the intent to contract with an independent entity with proven experience in monitoring and resolving sweatshop disputes, and the consider the possible establishment of a task force including advocates and experts.

The superintendent shall also consider the appropriateness of the enforcement model employed by the University of California and other universities that have adopted No Sweat guidelines for apparel licensing.

The superintendent shall make recommendations on enforcement and monitoring, including budget implications, for the Board's consideration and action by December 1, 2003; and be it

RESOLVED, further, that the Board endorses the policy goal of ending any procurement practices that result in wages below the poverty line for workers on District contracts and subcontracts. The Board further endorses the concept of a non-poverty wage standard as an element of the No Sweat procurement policy, and directs the Superintendent to create a process for evaluating and implementing such a non-poverty wage standard. This evaluation shall include (1) consideration of non-poverty wages both domestically and internationally, (2) consideration of various definitions of non-poverty wages, including but not limited to data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty index and the World Bank's ratios on comparative purchasing power, (3) an analysis of labor costs as percentage of production costs under current procurement guidelines; and (4) make findings concerning the potential costs to the District and ways to mitigate those costs to the extent feasible without perpetuating poverty wages.

The superintendent shall make his report and recommendations to the Board by March 1, 2004.