

RESOLUTION NO. : 15/22-23

IN SUPPORT OF MARCH 2023 AS PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: When used as prescribed by a doctor, prescription medicines such as stimulants, sedatives and opioids can be helpful in treating many illnesses, but when these medications are misused, they can have serious consequences such as an increased risk of infectious disease and overdose death;

WHEREAS: Anyone who takes prescription opioids can become addicted to them. In fact, as many as one in four patients receiving long-term opioid therapy in a primary care setting struggles with opioid addiction. Once addicted, it can be hard to stop;

WHEREAS: Prescription opioid overdose deaths also often involve benzodiazepines. Benzodiazepines are central nervous system depressants used to sedate, induce sleep, prevent seizures, and relieve anxiety. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends avoiding taking benzodiazepines while taking prescription opioids whenever possible¹;

WHEREAS: In 2021 in Contra Costa County there were 498,097 opioid prescriptions given to patients which is an age-adjusted rate of 355.5 per 1,000 residents, compared to the state rate of 326.7²;

WHEREAS: In 2021, a total of 19,978 emergency department visits occurred in California that were related to any opioid overdose and 343 of those visits occurred in Contra Costa County²;

WHEREAS: Overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone, which largely consist of illicitly manufactured fentanyl; psychostimulants with abuse potential (e.g., methamphetamine); and cocaine have increased in recent years necessitating response efforts focused on polysubstance use; and

WHEREAS: The San Ramon Valley Unified School District supports October 29, 2022 and April 27, 2023 as "National Prescription Drug Take Back Days" as declared by the DEA⁴ and encourages residents to locate their local collection site and safely dispose of their accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs;

WHEREAS: The Contra Costa County Medication Education and Disposal Safety (MEDS) Coalition³ engages youth and adult stakeholders from across the county to participate in Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities to raise awareness about prescription drug dangers, promote safe medication storage and disposal and ensure naloxone is available for those at high risk of overdose.

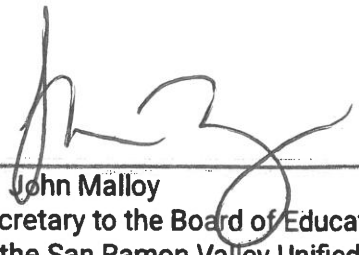
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Governing Board of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District hereby declare the month of March, 2023 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, and encourages all citizens to participate in prescription drug abuse related prevention programs and activities. Be it also resolved that this Board of Education encourage all community members to pledge, "Spread the Word... One Pill Can Kill".

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following called vote this 16th day of August 2022.

BUDGET IMPLICATION: None

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AYES: Mintz, Hurd, Bratt, Clark, Ordway
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAINED: None



Dr. John Malloy
Secretary to the Board of Education
of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District,
Costa County, State of California

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/basics/epidemic.html>

² Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard - <https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/ODdash/>

³ <https://cccmedscoalition.org/>

⁴ https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>

<https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic/opioid-crisis-statistics/index.html>