

RESOLUTION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

MELINDA DART

Recipient of the
UNITY AWARD 36th Annual C.O.P.E Banquet

WHEREAS, Melinda Dart was born in Hollywood, California, and is the daughter of a teacher and an aerospace engineer who was raised on the tales of two sets of working class grandparents including her Welsh grandfather who told Melinda of his small town in Wales strip mined by the wealthy English companies and the inequity of who fought and died in WWI as well as her mother’s family’s vivid stories of the Depression and their struggles; and

WHEREAS, Going with her mother to the schools she taught in, Melinda saw classrooms in Detroit and Florida Headstart programs, and compared them to her suburban classrooms, which had “windows with trees in them” and all the amenities that an affluent tax base can buy. At 17 Melinda became a VISTA volunteer and worked her first political campaigns. She majored in English at the University of Michigan, where she won the Avery Hopwood Award three times in short story; and

WHEREAS, Melinda taught preschool at the Chinatown Children’s Center for five years while obtaining a teaching credential at San Francisco State University and later served as an interim director on their board of directors, learning firsthand about the harsh effects of delayed budgets and unstable state funding; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, Melinda became a teacher in the Jefferson Elementary School District in Daly City, and joined her local, American Federation of Teachers, (AFT) 3267. Early in her career, Melinda became her union’s site rep, and joined the executive board and negotiating team of her local. In 2009, she was hired as an instructional coach, working with many teachers. On September 11, 2001 Melinda became president the Jefferson Elementary Federation of Teachers as she saw how much the classroom experience depended on political outcomes. Furthering her political activism, in 2007, Melinda joined the California Federation of Teachers Executive board of 24 vice presidents and has served on the American Federation of Teachers Program and Policy Committee since 2009; and

WHEREAS, Melinda subsequently became a San Mateo Central Labor Council delegate becoming more active in local politics for which she won a Solidarity Champions Award in 2015 for the political phone banking participation of her local which supported efforts to pass both Proposition 25, which forced the legislature to pass a budget on time, and Proposition 30, which has finally ended the cycle of cuts endured by public education for so long.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby commends MELINDA DART for her lifelong dedication and commitment to working people in San Mateo County, and extends its congratulations to her as the recipient of the Unity Award at the 36th Annual C.O.P.E Banquet of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council.

Dated: August 28th, 2015

SUPERVISORS:

- CAROLE GROOM, President
- DAVE PINE
- DON HORSLEY
- WARREN SLOCUM
- ADRIENNE J. TISSIER

Attest:

Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors