

As some of the Board may be aware, and the audience as well, the teenager, Greta Thunberg landed in New York last week, and she is leading a student strike across America on climate change. Greta Thunberg is the Swedish student who found herself, day after day, alienated and depressed about climate change, so rather than hold her anger and frustration inside her, she decided she would take action and do something about it. She started sitting outside the Swedish Parliament with a sign demanding action to curb fossil fuels. And unlike our President, the Swedish Parliament actually listened to her arguments and agreed with her.

Greta was so effective, and changed so many minds, that her action spread around the globe. Now, in what has been called, "The Greta Thunberg Effect," she is calling on a global student strike to draw attention to the most quintessential issue of our era, climate change. The student strike / action will take place the week of September 20th. The week is called Fridays for Our Future, and it will last 8 days, including two strike Fridays, as bookend events the week of the climate action.

But that's not all. The strike is happening in at least 3 cities in our own County: Ojai, Ventura, and Oxnard. This is a huge commitment by our heroic students in Ventura County who are willing to follow Thunberg's lead and disrupt their lives in order to focus on our climate crisis, while trying to confront adults with common sense, who hold power and position in our community

As Greta Thunberg has said: "For way too long, the politicians and the people in power have gotten away with not doing anything to fight the climate crisis, but we will make sure that they will not get away with it any longer. We are striking because we have done our homework and they have not."

Actions and marches will be taking place at Mission Park in Ventura and Libby Park in Ojai on the 20th and 27th. During the week of the strike, there will also be a "Day of Peace Festival on September 22nd in Libby Park. As the Board has passed the "We're in Too" motion, agreeing with the Paris Accords on climate change, I would think the Board would wish to support these students on their courage to take action.. After all, as an Irish proverb tells us, "You can't plough a field--or for that matter, get rid of an oil field--by turning it over in your mind." Action is essential.

I would also think that the Board, in light of our recent climate fires, and rising tides, would like to dedicate this meeting to these courageous students as well. And if the Board doesn't take the courage to do so, I would like to personally dedicate this meeting to the students who are willing to stand up and demand of our politicians to take action on climate change. Will the Board support our students and dedicate the meeting to fighting climate change? Thank you.

Grant Marcus, 9/10/19