

I ♥ PUBLIC  
EDUCATION

**Resolution in Support of Public Education  
County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Public Schools of the City of Ann Arbor, County of Washtenaw, Michigan (the "School District") held at Forsythe Middle School in Ann Arbor on the 20th day of December 2017, at 7:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Members Christine Stead, Jeffrey Gaynor, Simone Lightfoot, Jessica Kelly

ABSENT: Members Susan Baskett, Patricia Manley, Harmony Mitchell

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Simone Lightfoot and supported by Member Jeffrey Gaynor:

**WHEREAS** Ninety percent (90%) of America's children are educated in public schools, or 50.7 million children, and

**WHEREAS** the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education advocates for the highest quality public education for all students, and develops and supports school system leaders, and

**WHEREAS** the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education supports and values an inclusive, safe and innovative quality public education system that ensures all students can succeed, regardless of their zip code, the color of their skin, their native language, their gender/gender identity, their immigration status, their religion, or their social standing, and

**WHEREAS** the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education promotes equity and excellence for students, educators and administrators by implementing continuous improvement and research-supported best practices, and

**WHEREAS** the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education advocates for policies that address the unique needs of persistently underserved children, and

**WHEREAS** the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education supports creating stable, equitable, predictable and adequate funding for schools based on local, state and federal revenues that will meet the challenges of universal proficiency and provide the funding base needed to support a system which leads to success for all students, and

**WHEREAS** the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education supports the application of public school accountability systems for all educational institutions receiving local, state or federal funding including, but not limited to: virtual schools; charter schools; independent schools; and home school placements, and

**WHEREAS** the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education supports public school choice and charter schools that operate under the governance of local public school boards. There should be a level playing field, including non-discriminatory and unconditional enrollment for all children. Common regulations and accountability should apply to all schools receiving public funding, and

**WHEREAS** investing in public education is crucial to ensuring the future health of our economy and our country's global competitiveness. Students must leave their public schools ready for success in our 21st century society and ready to fill current and future jobs. A robust federal investment in education is necessary to equip schools with the resources – personnel, facilities, technology – to position students to acquire the skills and knowledge needed for college and career success, and

**WHEREAS** the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education without quality public education, there will exist a great divide between the educated and uneducated, corresponding to the divide between the rich and the poor and the strong and the weak, and

**WHEREAS** the existence of a strong, effective system of free public education for all children is essential to our democratic system of government, and

**WHEREAS** public schools provide students with broad-based educational opportunities to include: learning multiple languages; having exposure to the history, culture, and context of all regions of the world; learning how to collaboratively solve problems and interact with peoples of different cultures and different lands; and developing empathy for human differences, commonalities, backgrounds and cultures,

**WHEREAS** investing in public education is critical to student health. Public schools serve as a lifeline for children who can't access health services outside of school. Schools are uniquely positioned to help children and youth acquire life-long, health-promoting knowledge, skills and behaviors, and

**WHEREAS** investment in public education matters. While the federal government contributes (on average) just over 10 percent of a school district's operating budget, the federal funds provide critical support to schools and the neediest students they serve, and

**WHEREAS** getting children ready for democracy embraces the notion that, to thrive, this nation must have citizens committed to the ideals and work of democracy, equipped to operate in a democracy and who can find common ground in their differences and respect where common ground is absent, and

**WHEREAS** the nation’s public school superintendents call on local, state and federal lawmakers to prioritize support for strengthening our nation’s public schools and empowering local education leaders to implement, manage and lead school districts, and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Education of the Ann Arbor Public Schools set forth these statements to exemplify the importance of enhancing educational opportunities for students.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education of the Ann Arbor Public Schools:

1. Advocates for local, state and federal policy that is committed to supporting and educating the whole child, providing support for academic and non-academic factors, including counseling, extra/co-curricular activities and mental health supports;
2. Initiates the **“I Love Public Education”** Campaign to tell the good news of public education, to kick off conversation related to ensuring that every community has access to a high quality public school, and to support the leaders of our nation’s public schools;
3. Affirms its commitment to these values and will be steadfast in its efforts to protect students and their families, public schools and our communities from any policies that would undermine these values;
4. Urges Congress to ensure federal resources are allocated equitably, providing increased levels of support for needier communities and districts;
5. Directs the Executive Assistant of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education to transmit copies of this resolution to:

Betsy Devos, United States Secretary of Education  
Rick Snyder, Governor of Michigan  
All Michigan State Senators and Representatives  
Brian J Whiston, State Superintendent (Michigan)  
All members of the State Board of Education (Michigan)  
Michael J Rochholz, President, Michigan Association of School Boards  
Michele Lemire, President, Michigan Association of School Administrators  
Paula Herbart, President, Michigan Education Association  
Gale Pletnick, President, American Association of School Administrators

Local print, voice, and Internet media

Ayes: Christine Stead, Jeffrey Gaynor, Simone Lightfoot, Jessica Kelly

Nays: none

Resolution declared adopted.

  
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Jeffrey Gaynor, Secretary  
AAPS Board of Education

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Public Schools of the City of Ann Arbor, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on December 20, 2017, and that the meeting was conducted and public notice of the meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, and that the minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by the Act.

  
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Jeffrey Gaynor, Secretary  
AAPS Board of Education