SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. ________

Acknowledgement of Voluntary Non-Renewal of Charter Contract for PIONEER CHARTER SCHOOL

WHEREAS, on June 5, 1997, Denver Public Schools’ Board of Education (the “Board”) and the University of Denver entered into an agreement for the establishment of the Pioneer Charter School (the “School” or “Pioneer”); and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2002; and on February 17, 2005; and on February 21, 2008; and on November 18, 2010; and on November 21, 2013; the Board renewed Pioneer’s charter; and

WHEREAS, the November 21, 2013 charter renewal was for an initial term of two years from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016 with an option to extend, subject to performance and other conditions described in Board Resolution #3469, for up to an additional three years through June 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, in September 2014, based on the District’s School Performance Framework ratings, Pioneer was rated “Accredited on Watch”; and

WHEREAS, because Pioneer was rated “Accredited on Watch” the school failed to meet the performance condition in Resolution #3469 and it did not qualify for the optional contract extension; and

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2014, Pioneer’s Board of Directors determined that it was in the best interest of students to wind down their school, and accordingly they voted to not seek renewal of their charter contract beyond June 30, 2016, and to begin phasing out their school program by not offering 6th grade in the 2015-16 school year; and

WHEREAS, the District received notice from the Board of Directors of Pioneer Charter School as to these actions and, based on this notice, the District included this information in the Call for New Quality Schools released publicly on December 18, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the District received notice from the Board of Directors of Pioneer Charter School that it has proactively sought out a partnership with a high-performing charter school in Denver, University Prep, to strengthen service to the School’s students in its final year of operation; and

WHEREAS, the District applauds this innovative approach and the service agreement between the two boards of University Prep and Pioneer; and

WHEREAS, the District welcomes a purposeful transition between providers serving the students of what is now Pioneer Charter School; and

WHEREAS, the District owns the facility in which Pioneer Charter School operates at 3230 E 38th Avenue in Denver, Colorado; and
WHEREAS, Pioneer Charter School had 469 students enrolled in grades ECE – 8th as of the October 1, 2014 audited enrollment count, including 144 students in the middle school grades of 6th, 7th and 8th.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

The DPS Board of Education acknowledges the following:

A. The Pioneer Charter School Board of Directors will not seek to renew their charter contract beyond June 30, 2016.

B. Pioneer Charter School will begin winding down its school operation by not offering 6th grade in the 2015-16 school year.

C. Pioneer Charter School will continue to serve grades ECE – 5th, 7th and 8th grades in the 2015-16 school year.

D. Pioneer Charter School intends to engage in a service partnership with University Prep during its final year of operation.

The DPS Board of Education resolves the following:

1. It is the expectation and intention of the DPS Board of Education that there will be a K-5 school open to serve students in the 2016-17 school year in the facility at 3230 E 38th Avenue.

2. The new school shall consider the unique needs of the students in the community, per the details provided in the Call for New Quality Schools, including the need to provide intensive supports to students that are not yet demonstrating proficiency in core academic subjects and to provide high-quality service to its English language learner population.

3. Based on University Prep’s track record and the agreement between the parties, the Board will approve University Prep’s service as the replacement provider for Pioneer Charter School beginning in 2016-17, conditioned on the following:

   a. The quality of University Prep’s plan to assume responsibility for the School after the transition, to be submitted in alignment with requirements of, and evaluated as part of, the Call for New Quality Schools process; and

   b. The continued high performance of University Prep’s existing school.

The DPS Board of Education further instructs the following:

1. District staff shall notify known Call applicants, as well as the general public through a posting on the website for the Call for New Quality Schools, that the District has identified a potential replacement provider of high quality for Pioneer Charter School for the 2016-17 school year.

Allegra “Happy” Haynes, President

Rosemary Rodriguez, Secretary