WHEREAS, Denver Public Schools’ (DPS) vision that Every Child Succeeds starts with the belief that all students, from the very first day they walk into a DPS school, can achieve at the highest levels and ultimately cross the graduation stage ready for college, careers and life; and

WHEREAS, Colorado’s investment in education lags behind other states – Colorado ranks 39th in terms of state K-12 school funding; and

WHEREAS, Colorado education funding has not recovered from the recession; DPS will be under-funded by $70 million in 2018-19 and $760 million in total since 2009-10; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 Great Schools, Thriving Communities, a measure to increase Colorado’s investment in public education, will be on the November 6, 2018 ballot based upon statewide petition support; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 will bring Colorado’s public education spending closer to the national average by raising $1.6 billion dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, if passed by 55% of voters, Amendment 73 will bring an estimated $150 million in additional funds to DPS annually; and

WHEREAS, DPS continually demonstrates an exemplary level of accountability and transparency regarding our use of public funds as demonstrated by the dedicated efforts of the parents and teachers on our longstanding oversight committees and our commitment to budget transparency; and

WHEREAS, a group of committed DPS teachers, parents and community members gathered to discuss how Amendment 73 could help us achieve our Denver Plan 2020 goals; and

WHEREAS, this group voted to use the additional funds to support our kids, our teachers and our community. Aligned with this vote, this volunteer group recommends and the DPS Board of Education (Board) commits to prioritizing additional funding from Amendment 73 on the following:

- Increase compensation to attract and retain the highest quality teachers and staff (the largest share of the funds)
- Increase Whole Child funding to better support student social-emotional and mental health needs
- Targeted funding and strategies to better support student groups with higher needs including efforts to reduce class sizes
- Expand quality Early Childhood Education opportunities
WHEREAS, this group recommends that DPS continues and expands efforts to implement these priorities with a focus on promoting diversity, inclusion and systemic equity; and

WHEREAS, this group also recommends that the Board invest in other critical priorities such as student transportation, teacher and leader recruitment pathways, parent engagement, culturally responsive education and student internships and apprenticeships; and

WHEREAS, this group recommends and the Board commits to ensuring district oversight and transparency regarding the allocation and use of funds from Amendment 73. This oversight will include parents, teachers and community members. Additionally, the Board commits funds and resources to increasing school supports to empower our communities to engage in local budget decision making for these new funds; and

WHEREAS, the Board declares that Amendment 73 is a matter of official concern; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board strongly supports Amendment 73 Great Schools, Thriving Communities for the purpose of increasing funding of public education in the State of Colorado and for DPS. If passed, this initiative will improve Colorado’s rank from 39th in terms of state K-12 funding and direct needed resources to our children across the state. This increase in funding will allow the Denver community to increase investment in critical priorities aligned with our Denver Plan 2020 goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board accepts the recommendations for prioritizing additional funding should Amendment 73 pass and commits to using the funds as outlined by these recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should Amendment 73 pass, the Board will reestablish this group to make recommendations for detailed programmatic and school funding allocations. The Board commits to community engagement and oversight that includes impacted communities across Denver to ensure the equitable use of these funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the expenditure of district funds to distribute factual summaries regarding Amendment 73, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. 1-45-117.

________________________________________  ____________________________________
Anne Rowe, President                      Dr. Carrie Olson, Secretary