RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT 73

WHEREAS, the Littleton Public Schools Board of Education believes every student should have the opportunity to reach his or her full potential and to participate meaningfully in the civic and economic life of the community; and

WHEREAS, every student deserves the opportunity to succeed in school regardless of their socio-economic condition or learning needs; and

WHEREAS, quality public education develops a competitive workforce that will drive a vibrant Colorado economy for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's investment in education lags behind other states — Colorado ranks 48th nationally in personal income invested in education; and

WHEREAS, education funding has not recovered from the recession; in the 2017-2018 school year alone, $672.4 million intended for Colorado schools was withheld in order to balance the state budget.; and

WHEREAS, the loss to the Littleton Public School District exceeds $114 million since 2009, which could have been used to provide:
- adequate and equitable staffing for schools;
- enhanced safety and security measures;
- additional career, technical, and innovative programming;
- mental health supports and initiatives;
- free full-day kindergarten for all students;
- opportunities for additional instructional time/days for students;
- recruitment and retention of highly effective teachers and staff;
- additional early childhood educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, reduced funding directly impacts the District's ability to provide meaningful educational opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 will expand students' educational opportunities to prepare them for success in college, military service, career and life; preparing a qualified workforce for decades to come; and ensuring Colorado's economic prosperity is shared with every community throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 will bring Colorado's investment in public education closer to the national average by raising an estimated $1.6 billion dollars annually to provide sustainable financial support for schools by:
- creating a graduated income tax structure for those making more than $150,000 in federal taxable income that addresses inequities in Colorado's current tax system;
- stabilizing school property taxes by reducing and freezing the residential assessment rate at 7%, and reducing the non-residential assessment rate to 24% for property taxes levied by school districts;
• increasing the state corporate income tax rate for domestic C corporations and foreign C corporations doing business in Colorado by 1.37% beginning in tax year 2019; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 revenue will be deposited in the Quality Public Education Fund and may be retained and spent by locally elected school boards without further voter approval, addressing the most pressing needs of Colorado’s public schools specifically funding for free full-day kindergarten and a significant increase in funding for early childhood programs; special education programs; and at-risk, English language learners, and gifted and talented programs; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 empowers local school boards to respond to parent and community input and provide programs and services to meet the needs of all students within each district; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 will provide an additional $23.1 million of on-going annual revenue to Littleton Public Schools, where the Board commits to focusing on the following priorities:
• adequate and equitable staffing for schools;
• enhanced safety and security measures;
• additional career, technical, and innovative programming;
• mental health supports and initiatives;
• free full-day kindergarten for all students;
• opportunities for additional instructional time/days for students;
• recruitment and retention of highly effective teachers and staff;
• additional early childhood educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Colorado’s Constitution allows tax changes to be enacted to support important public services with a vote of the people; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 represents an opportunity for Colorado citizens to affirm the importance of public education to our state;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Littleton Public Schools Board of Education officially declares its support for Amendment 73 for the purpose of increasing funding for public education in the State of Colorado.

The Board authorizes the expenditure of District funds to distribute a factual summary regarding Amendment 73, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. 1-45-117.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 23rd day of August, 2018.

Attest:

Robert Reichardt
Secretary, Board of Education

Arapahoe School District #6
Littleton Public Schools

Jack Reutzel
President, Board of Education