Resolution

Whereas, the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma Senate are charged with creating a budget for the State of Oklahoma; and,

Whereas, the State of Oklahoma’s Legislative Leadership has continued to ignore the voices of individual legislators of both parties, the Governor and the State Superintendent of Schools as they call for adequate funding of public education; and,

Whereas, legislative leadership has ignored their constitutional responsibility to provide textbooks for every child by eliminating the instructional materials line item budget; and,

Whereas, legislative leadership has cut funding to pay for specific requirements established by the legislature – thereby leaving huge unfunded liabilities for Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS); and,

Whereas, legislative leadership has chosen to ignore the state law calling for the education budget process to be completed by April 1 of the legislative session; and,

Whereas, these and other failures and inaction in legal and moral leadership by said legislative leaders have caused an obstruction for the OKCPS Board of Education to fulfill its constitutional duty of providing an education for all children in a high quality and appropriate manner.

Therefore be it resolved that the Oklahoma City Public Schools Board of Education does hereby instruct our legal counsel to begin discussions and interviews with potential law firms to represent OKCPS, to determine specific causes of action, and to pursue a lawsuit, or lawsuits, surrounding the aforementioned areas against the State of Oklahoma, the Speaker of the House of the Oklahoma State House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate in their official capacities, and/or any other appropriate defendant.

Furthermore, the involved District staff are instructed to reach out to other potential parties affected by the failures outlined and gauge interest in those groups or bodies enjoining in said lawsuits.

Dated this __________ day of ____________, 2017.

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Paula Lewis, Board Chairperson          Gloria Torres, Vice Chairperson & District 6 Board Member

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Charles Henry, District 1 Board Member          Rebecca Budd, District 2 Board Member

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Carrie Jacobs, District 3 Board Member         Mark Mann, District 4 Board Member

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Ruth Veales, District 5 Board Member            Ron Millican, District 7 Board Member