Resolution on the Commitment of Dallas ISD to Black Students and Black Lives

WHEREAS, current events have enhanced the need for communities and leaders to stand in solidarity against the murder of unarmed Black men and women by declaring unequivocally that the lives of Black students and Black people in our community matter; and

WHEREAS, the brutal murder of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, on May 25, 2020, by four Minneapolis police officers is only the most recent racist crime and atrocity perpetrated against Black people in our nation’s history; and

WHEREAS, there is no place for silence in the face of racism, hatred, and injustice; and

WHEREAS, proclaiming that Black lives matter does not negate the commitment of Dallas ISD in its mission of “educating all students for success.” Rather, this resolution aligns with the values of being responsive to the needs of our community and ensuring that we elevate conversations to forge racial equity and disrupt systems of inequity; and

WHEREAS, Dallas ISD has a shared core value of equity. In Dallas ISD, we celebrate our diversity and will provide the necessary resources and supports to eliminate barriers to success and foster a more equitable future for all of our students; and

WHEREAS, as a public school district, it is our solemn duty to drive the limitless growth potential of human beings, with a charge to guide our youth to find and achieve their purpose with a belief that every human being deserves to live with dignity, safety, and liberty; and

WHEREAS, the Dallas ISD School Board (the Board), Dallas ISD administration and employees take responsibility for actions, decisions, and statements that impact the education community and the public; and

WHEREAS, the Board, as outlined in the Racial, Socio-economic and Educational Equity Resolution Policy AEA (Local), including the establishment of a Racial Equity Office and citizens’ committee, and a Welcoming Resolution, has committed to relentlessly pursue systemic improvements to policies, programs, and practices that eliminate inequities; ensure educational success for every racial, ethnic, and demographically diverse group of students; and enrich the lives of all children in Dallas ISD; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that disparities between the achievement of other students and that of Black students persist, even though these students have the same academic potential and all bring unique, valuable perspectives and experiences to our classrooms; and

WHEREAS, today our Black students represent 21% of the district but continue to experience inequity of access to learning and are disproportionately overrepresented in discipline statistics and special education programming while being underrepresented in rigorous classes including Advanced Placement, honors and gifted and talented programming; and
WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that general education research and practice have created a picture that overemphasizes the deficits of Black children, their families and community instead of celebrating them for the unique gifts they bring with them into schools and providing them the opportunity to access more rigorous grade level classes and materials; and

WHEREAS, the Board is reminded that when we focus and target our efforts, including setting in policy our Student Outcome Goals and Goal Progress Measures (AE (Local)), we see success as evidenced by the results we have achieved through other Dallas ISD strategic initiatives like Early Childhood, Early college and Choice schools.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board declares that the lives of Black students and our Black community members matter. We as a Board are therefore committed to continuing
to address systemic racism towards Black students and will continue to prioritize and target their academic achievements. To this end, Board members in collaboration with the community will identify high need issues and shall reconvene with the Superintendent in [30] days to begin to effectively address the issues by using the tools, systems, resources and talent that exist within our district and community and equitably investing resources for our students and their families to achieve marked and measurable improvements for Black students within Dallas ISD over the next year.

Approved the 5th day of June 2020

Justin Henry, Board President, District 9

Dan Micciche, 1st Vice President, District 3

Edwin Flores, 2nd Vice President, District 1

Karla Garcia, Board Secretary, District 4
Dustin Marshall, District 2

Maxie Johnson, District 5

Joyce Foreman, District 6

Ben Mackey, District 7

Miguel Solis, District 8