

DRAFT SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION

- Whereas improving the quality of public education in the City of Richmond is an urgent public concern;
- Whereas obtaining meaningful progress in improving education is inherently challenging in a context of high socio-economic need and limited resources;
- Whereas, on January 3, 2017, this body passed a Resolution stating that School Board “welcome[d] the idea of developing an Education Compact among all Richmond elected leaders as a shared framework for establishing goals, metrics for success and accountability, and a shared strategy for identifying and meeting the needs of our students and families inside and outside of the classroom” and that School Board would “commit to formalizing dialogue and communication between City Council, the School Board and the Mayor with the aim of building and sustaining trust and shared commitment to established goals”;
- Whereas, on February 17, 2017, Mayor Levar M. Stoney released to the public documents pertaining to a draft RVA Education Compact, containing three key elements: institutionalizing collaboration between the Mayor, City Council, the School Board, and the administrations of the City of Richmond and Richmond Public Schools; setting broad and ambitious goals for improving both academic outcomes and the quality of life of children and families outside the classroom; and development of a shared funding strategy to better meet the holistic needs of Richmond children and families;
- Whereas a series of public meetings in all nine Council districts have been held to solicit public input into the draft Education Compact;
- Whereas there is strong community support for sustained collaborative leadership amongst City leadership to address the needs of schools, children and families conducted in a thoughtful manner, with a spirit of urgency;
- Whereas the purpose of this collaborative leadership is and must be to *support and improve public education* and the well-being of children in the City of Richmond;

By this resolution Richmond School Board affirms its support for launching the first stage of the RVA Education Compact, understood to contain the following elements:

- **Quarterly Joint Meetings Between City Council and School Board:** A commitment over the remainder of this Council term for City Council and Richmond School Board to meet on a quarterly basis in order to focus on issues of mutual concern with respect to education and the holistic needs of children and families in Richmond, beginning in July 2017 or as soon as feasible;

- **Development of Education Compact Team:** A commitment for two members of School Board to serve and actively participate on an advisory Education Compact Team, consisting also of two members of City Council, the administrative leadership of the City of Richmond and Richmond Public Schools (including the Superintendent), and broad cross-sector community representation to include representatives of the following stakeholders: parents, teachers, the philanthropic community and other cross sector partners. School Board will select its own representatives for the team; City Council will select its own representatives for the team; the Mayor will select members of the City administration for the team; and the Superintendent will select members of the RPS administration to participate in the team. (Participating School Board and City Council members may or may not be the same members who participated in the initial drafting of the RVA Education Compact.) Initial selection of community stakeholders to serve on the team will be made by consensus between the Mayor, City Council leadership, and School Board leadership.

This Team will meet monthly and be charged with exploring in depth and making advisory, nonbinding policy recommendations on matters of shared concern to Council, the School Board, and the Mayor. These recommendations may encompass long-term funding strategies to meet the operating and capital needs of schools and other programs supporting children, as well as the continued development of a shared framework for measuring progress in meeting the needs of children inside and outside the classroom. It is understood that the meetings of the Education Compact team will be public meetings, and that its recommendations are advisory and in no way intrude upon the legal prerogatives and responsibilities of City Council or the School Board;

- **Establishment of a Children’s Cabinet:** A commitment of City of Richmond administrative units directly impacting children and families to meet on a regular basis with Richmond Public Schools officials on matters of common concern, to facilitate improved communication, identify opportunities for productive collaboration, and facilitate implementation of projects and initiatives.

By this resolution, we also encourage the Mayor and the Interim Superintendent to proceed with necessary steps to assure the successful launch and operation of the Compact, including allocation of appropriate staff time to support the work of the Compact as well as continued and sustained engagement with the Board, Council and the public concerning the goals and progress of the Education Compact.