

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE STUDENTS OF THE ADAMS 14 SCHOOL DISTRICT

NO. 2022-39

WHEREAS, under Colo. Const. art. 9, § 15, the Adams County School District 14 Board of Education (“Adams 14 Board”) has control of instruction in its public schools; and

WHEREAS, the education of school age children within the Adams 14 School District (“District”) is of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, the District proudly serves a highly diverse and unique student population, in which a substantial percentage of students face socioeconomic challenges while attempting to thrive in a multilingual environment; and

WHEREAS, the District serves approximately 7,000 students, 90 percent of whom are students of color (primarily Latina/o), and approximately 84 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch; and

WHEREAS, the Adams 14 Board and the Colorado State Board of Education (“State Board”) believe that all District students deserve rigorous and effective academic programming to enable them to achieve postsecondary and workforce readiness and postgraduation success; and

WHEREAS, after a long and collaborative process, the State Board, as required by state statute, has ordered the District and Adams 14 Board to attend accountability hearings on April 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the State Board is considering, among other things, removing accreditation from the District, reorganizing the District, and closing certain of the District’s schools, including the District’s only comprehensive high school, or some combination thereof, all of which could threaten potential harm to the students in the Adams 14 District; and

WHEREAS, the options before the State Board have significant consequences that could include, among other things, increased transportation costs, strain on working families, impacts of childcare opportunities, and causing stress to students; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Commerce City recognizes the importance of the District in the lives of Commerce City residents including the children and students in District schools; and

WHEREAS, each of the Adams 14 Board members has been duly elected by Commerce City voters; and

WHEREAS, the Adams 14 Board members have put their faith and trust in the Superintendent Karla Loría and her leadership team.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE CITY, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings. The recitals to this resolution are incorporated as findings of the City Council. This resolution is found to be necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare and in the public interest.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Commerce City:

- a. Supports every student's access to a quality education that prepares them for post-secondary education or workforce development; and
- b. Recognizes the importance of a quality education in the lives of Commerce City students, parents, residents, and community; and
- c. Requests that the State Board holistically evaluate any adverse impacts on Commerce City of removing the accreditation from the District, reorganizing the District, or closing schools; and
- d. Requests that the accountability hearings involving the District be guided by what is within the best interests of the District's students; and
- e. Requests that the State Board work in partnership with the District to foster a positive relationship focused on what is in the best interests of the students in the District.

RESOLVED AND PASSED THIS 4TH DAY OF APRIL, 2022.

CITY OF COMMERCE CITY, COLORADO

Benjamin A. Huseman, Mayor

ATTEST

Dylan A. Gibson, City Clerk