

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ADAMS 14 SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ADAMS 14 BOARD OF EDUCATION

No. 2022-XX

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 Adams 14 School District (“District”) proudly serves a highly diverse and unique student population, in which a substantial majority face socioeconomic challenges and are linguistically gifted at rates well above state averages; and

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

WHEREAS, the Adams 14 Board believes that all District students deserve rigorous and effective academic programming to enable them to achieve postsecondary and workforce readiness and postgraduation success; and

WHEREAS, the Adams 14 Board and its superintendent endeavor to maintain the public trust through their acts and protection over the District, its students, staff, teachers, community, and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado State Board of Education (“State Board”) has ordered the District and Adams 14 Board to attend accountability hearings on April 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the State Board has requested that the District answer eleven (11) separate questions and four (4) subquestions that are not required by statute; and

WHEREAS, the State Board’s procedural rules allow the District and the Adams 14 Board only thirty (30) minutes to defend itself and to address complex education issues; and

WHEREAS, the State Board’s questions fail to recognize that its chosen for-profit, out-of-state company had two-and-a-half years to manage the District; and

WHEREAS, during that two-and-a-half year period, the State Board’s chosen for-profit, out-of- state company failed to substantially increase the educational assessment of Adams 14 students; and

WHEREAS, the State Board’s questions also fail to recognize that the District and the Adams 14 Board were not allowed to manage then District during the two-and-a-half year period; and

WHEREAS, the State Board's questions further fail to recognize that none of the Adams 14 Board members nor the Superintendent have had the authority to manage the District until March 4, 2022, when the for-profit, out-of-state company voluntary left the District; and

WHEREAS, at least one State Board member has openly expressed his bias against the Adams 14 Board by calling for their disempowerment and complete removal of authority; and

WHEREAS, the State Board refuses to disqualify this openly biased State Board member, and he has been allowed to take votes against the District; and

WHEREAS, the State Board has threatened to, among other things, remove accreditation from the District, threatened reorganization, and threatened to close down the District's schools; and

WHEREAS, the State Board's acts and conduct harm the District, the Adams 14 Board, students, parents, the Commerce City community, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of the District in the lives of Commerce City residents; 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; and

WHEREAS, the Adams 14 Board and District leadership have the experience and qualifications to turn this District around and realize student success if the State Board ceases to interfere with the District plans and, instead, offers real support and partnership; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Commerce City supports the District, the Adams 14 Board, and the District's leadership; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Commerce City recognizes the importance of the District in the lives of Commerce City students, parents, residents, and community; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Commerce City recognizes that any State Board plans to remove the accreditation from the District, attempts to reorganize the District, or attempts to close schools will have a dramatic, discriminatory, and adverse impact on Commerce City; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Commerce City demands that the State Board hold fair accountability hearings involving the District considering the complex education issues; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Commerce City demands that the State Board refrain from taking any adverse or punitive actions against the District or the Board; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Commerce City demands that the State Board continue the District’s accreditation, and provides real support and partnership to the District, the Board, District leadership, students, parents, and stakeholders.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Colorado State Board of Education as part of the public comment period.

CITY OF COMMERCE CITY, COLORADO

Benjamin A. Huseman, Mayor

ATTEST

Dylan A. Gibson, City Clerk

