

PUEBLO SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 60

RESOLUTION

(Supporting Amendment 73)

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Pueblo School District No. 60 believes that every student should have the opportunity to reach his or her full potential and to participate meaningfully in the civic and economic life of the community; and

WHEREAS, every Colorado resident should be able to receive a high-quality early childhood, primary, and secondary education on an equitable basis throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado way of life provides every student the chance to succeed regardless of their zip code or their learning needs; and

WHEREAS, quality public education develops a competitive workforce that will drive a vibrant Colorado economy for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is experiencing a teacher shortage crisis and many teachers in rural districts do not make enough salary to meet the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's investment in education significantly lags behind other states — Colorado ranks 48th nationally in personal income invested in education; and

WHEREAS, education funding has not recovered from the recession; in the 2018-19 school year alone, Colorado schools are underfunded by \$672.4 million; and

WHEREAS, the loss to the School District in annual aggregate per pupil funding is approximately \$16,391,146 below pre-recession levels, when adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS, reduced funding is directly impacting the School District's ability to provide meaningful educational opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, the reduced funding also limits the Board's ability to respond to parents and community input on the School District's programs and services, despite the Board's great desire to engage with and respond to its community; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 builds on the successes of Colorado's public schools by expanding students' educational opportunities to prepare them for success in college, career and life; preparing a qualified workforce for decades to come; and ensuring that Colorado's economic prosperity is shared with every community from corner to corner of the state; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 will bring Colorado's investment in public education closer to the national average by raising \$1.6 billion dollars annually; provide sustainable support for schools by stabilizing school property taxes and by providing property tax relief for business

property owners, farmers, and ranchers; provide additional funding for all students and address the most pressing needs of Colorado’s public schools — specifically, funding for full-day kindergarten and a significant increase in funding for Early Childhood programs, Special Education programs, At-Risk students, English Language Learners and Gifted & Talented students; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 gives local school boards, including Pueblo School District No. 60, greater ability to respond to parent and community input and provide programs and services to meet the needs of all their students; and

WHEREAS, if Amendment 73 passes, the Board commits to focusing on the following priorities: hiring and retaining highly-qualified teachers and staff; providing more competitive compensation and benefits packages for School District employees; reinstating various educational programs for students; purchasing new textbooks; addressing deferred maintenance in buildings and facilities; increasing school supply allocations; supporting additional professional development and training; reestablishing critical cash reserves; while acknowledging that priorities will evolve as community engagement is an ongoing process and revenue from Amendment 73 is annual funding; and

WHEREAS, the Board declares that Amendment 73 is a matter of official concern.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education officially declares its support for Amendment 73 for the purpose of increasing funding of public education in Pueblo School District No. 60 and in other school districts in the State of Colorado; and

The Board authorizes the expenditure of School District funds in an amount not to exceed \$100 to prepare and distribute a factual summary regarding Amendment 73, which shall include arguments both for and against the proposal, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. 1-45-117.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 28th day of August, 2018.