

**School Finance Research Collaborative
Board of Education Resolution**

Okemos Public Schools, Michigan (the “District”)

A regular meeting of the board of education of the District was held in the Community Conference Room in the District, on the 11th day of December, 2017, at __7__ o’clock in the evening.

The meeting was called to order by Melanie Lynn, President.

Present: Members Dean Bolton, Amy Crites, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez, Sarah Wohlford and Erica Wolf

Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Melanie Lynn and supported by Member Sarah Wohlford.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Constitution states that The legislature shall maintain and support a system of free public elementary and secondary schools as defined by law, and

WHEREAS, Michigan ranks 32nd in student achievement nationwide, according to recent research; and

WHEREAS, the Governors 21st Century Education Commission states that the urgency could not be greater regarding the falling K-12 performance, further stating that Michiganders underperform their peers, ranking 41st on fourth-grade reading performance nationally; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further stated that Michigan needs to efficiently distribute resources, and efficient distribution requires a transparent calculation of what it costs to meet performance standards, that students with greater educational needs should be provided with additional resources where needed to have an equal chance of meeting the performance standards; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the State of Michigan conducted a comprehensive statewide cost study (Adequacy Study) that produced and provided valuable information but used only one methodology and did not fully examine special education costs due to data availability issues, did not examine preschool, charter schools, career and technical education, the impact of high concentrations of special needs students and the cost challenges faced by geographically isolated schools and or very small school districts; and

WHEREAS, the way we fund Michigan’s public schools is fundamentally broken; and that Michigan needs to develop funding formulas that efficiently and effectively distribute these resources to the proper entities to support student success; and

WHEREAS, we must reexamine our approach so ALL students, regardless of their circumstances, can achieve and succeed; and

WHEREAS, the School Finance Research Collaborative is a broad-based, diverse and bipartisan group of business leaders and education experts, from Metro Detroit to the U.P., who agree it's time to determine the cost of student achievement for all students Pk-12 and then change how our schools are funded; and

WHEREAS, the School Finance Research Collaborative is supporting Michigan's first comprehensive school adequacy study using multiple methodologies to determine the cost of educating a student; and

WHEREAS, the School Finance Research Collaborative has hired the nation's top two school finance research firms to examine cost issues associated with key factors, including preschool, poverty, special education, Career and Technical Education, English Language Learners, at-risk students, and schools that are geographically isolated; and

WHEREAS, adequacy studies have been performed in more than 30 other states over the past 15 years, with over 90% of these studies using multiple methodologies, as Step One in considering any comprehensive school reform; and

WHEREAS, the School Finance Research Collaborative adequacy study is expected to be completed in early 2018, and will provide lawmakers and the public with the best, most accurate and most reliable information on what it truly costs to educate ALL Michigan students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Okemos Public Schools Board of Education supports the School Finance Research Collaborative and its efforts to determine the true cost of educating ALL Michigan public school students (pk-12).

Ayes: Members Dean Bolton, Amy Crites, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez, Sarah Wohlford and Erica Wolf

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Okemos Public Schools, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a regular meeting held on December 11, 2017, original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.

Secretary, Board of Education