

Resolution seeking North Carolina Board of Education support for approval of a Carver Heights Elementary Restart application and keeping Carver Height Elementary under Wayne County Public Schools responsibility:

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Board of Education and Wayne County Public Schools holds high expectations for all students and makes every effort to provide the necessary supports to every school to help ensure student success; and

WHEREAS, since 2016, Wayne County Public Schools (WCPS) has removed four schools from the State's Low Performing list and has improved the performance of six other schools currently on the list, demonstrating that the district has a track record for improving struggling schools; and

WHEREAS, Carver Heights Elementary is one of two Apple ConnectED schools in North Carolina to offer a comprehensive 1:1 technology solution for every student and teacher, including Apple hardware, software, and services; professional development, increasing student access to technology within the attendance zone from 35% to 100%; and

WHEREAS, in 2016-17 WCPS implemented a School Regrouping Plan, as a part of the district's strategic transformation efforts, which migrated all grades 3-5 students from North Drive Elementary, School Street Elementary, and Dillard Middle to Carver Heights Elementary; and

WHEREAS, through the School Regrouping Plan, all students, grades K-2, from School Street Elementary and Carver Heights Elementary were moved to North Drive Elementary to take part in an Early Literacy Focus before moving on to Carver Heights Elementary; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Carver Heights Elementary was awarded a \$1.3 million federal School Improvement Grant to implement a Transformation Intervention Model, for which the school is just beginning its second year of implementation; and

WHEREAS, despite ongoing school transformation efforts, the North Carolina Innovative School District (ISD) is recommending the North Carolina State Board of Education select Carver Heights Elementary be taken over by the ISD beginning in the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 115C-75.7 requires that the North Carolina State Board of Education approve the ISD takeover of a school based on an analysis of performance over the most recent three-year period, yet Carver Heights Elementary school has only two years of comparable data under its current configuration; and

WHEREAS, the ISD lacks both a comprehensive evaluation process and its own evaluative tools, and appears to be presenting, inaccurate and/or misleading information to the North Carolina State Board of Education in its recommendation for taking over Carver Heights Elementary; and

WHEREAS, the ISD has failed to effectively engage and inform Carver Heights Elementary parents by only giving parents three days' notice (over a weekend) and holding the information session of the meeting at 5:00 p.m., making it difficult for working families to attend; and

WHEREAS, the ISD has no track record for innovation and school turnaround and has yet to offer a comprehensive plan for how it will support student achievement at Carver Heights Elementary and has publicly stated that it will evaluate the school in the coming months in order to develop any strategies; and

WHEREAS, if transferred to the ISD, Carver Heights Elementary will be operated by a private company with no accountability to the Wayne County taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the ISD's actions have been demoralizing, have sown chaos, scared teachers and staff, and through the ISD's "plan" will keep the school in a holding pattern for the next eight months until a private operator takes over the school; and

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Board of Education and Wayne County Public Schools recognize that any meaningful reform efforts must take place now, and that necessary changes at Carver Heights Elementary will occur immediately through the district's comprehensive improvement and Restart plans;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Board of Education fully supports the district Restart efforts, to include utilizing school turnaround experts in administrative roles at Carver Heights Elementary who have a proven track record for improving Low Performing schools in North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Board of Education is asking the North Carolina State Board of Education to approve the Restart Application for Carver Heights Elementary as the more viable option over ISD takeover for increasing student achievement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Board of Education hereby declares its intent to oppose in every possible manner and by all legal means the forced takeover of Carver Heights Elementary School by the ISD; and

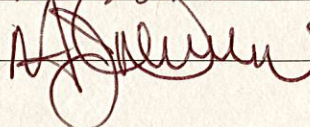
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the North Carolina State Board of Education, the North Carolina Innovative School District, and the Wayne County Board of Commissioners.

Dated this 30th day of October in the year 2018

Patricia A. Burden, Board Chair

 Date 10-30-18

Michael J. Dunsmore, Secretary to the Board

 Date 10-30-18

