

CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A SHARED VISION AND PLAN FOR PRESCHOOL EXPANSION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined the necessity of asking voters to approve an emergency levy at the election to be held in November 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has proposed to apply \$15 million annually of the proposed \$48 million levy proceeds (less the funds that are needed in the District for preschool expansion) to the expansion of quality preschool through Cincinnati Public Schools and community providers starting when levy revenues are received; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and the Cincinnati Preschool Promise share a vision for the expansion of quality preschool which includes the following:

1. Children/families must have access to high quality programs, which means tuition assistance will be made available for highly-rated programs on a per-pupil basis starting with the most economically-disadvantaged children. Quality improvement funding will be available for non-rated and lower-rated programs to raise these programs to high quality.
2. The District is the established fiscal and taxing agent and will retain fiscal responsibility, authority, and accountability for tax levy revenues. Levy proceeds allocated to preschool expansion will be disbursed transparently and objectively in accordance with the Ohio Public Records and Open Meetings laws, with the flow of dollars disbursed through an agreed-upon budget and reconciliation process.
3. Common tuition funding will be applied across all preschool providers, both CPS and community providers. CPS and community providers will be compensated at a level that is tied to their quality rating and fits within an annually-approved budget.
4. To maximize the number of children who benefit from preschool and to preserve resources for quality improvement, the Board and all participating community providers will continue to pursue all private and public funding resources (such as Title I and ODE ECE funds), with levy proceeds allocated on a "last dollar" funding basis starting with the most economically-disadvantaged children. Levy proceeds should not take the place of existing funding.
5. Quality is critical for preschool to be impactful. Ensuring a quality preschool experience for children requires providing full-time teachers good salaries whether they are in a community or public educational setting. Preschool funding should ensure competitive wages for full-time teachers with comparable credentials, with a rate of at least \$15 an hour for full-time instructors without four-year degrees. This will ensure that participating preschool programs can hire and retain good teachers and provide quality; and

WHEREAS, to manage the preschool expansion initiative, the Board of Education seeks to identify a credible organization, which is a local, established, non-profit ("Trusted Entity"), which shall be identified by a request for proposal issued by the Board of Education. This Trusted Entity will receive the

funding from Cincinnati Public Schools that has been identified for the expansion of quality preschool through community providers, and will be responsible for managing the funds and program. This Trusted Entity shall be fully accountable to the Board of Education and thereby to the taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, to enable the Trusted Entity to manage the funding and the program and provide oversight, the Board of Education proposes that the Trusted Entity will establish an Ohio nonprofit corporation, operating as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code ("Preschool Expansion Organization"). The Trusted Entity would become the sole member of the Preschool Expansion Organization and would be responsible for electing a Board of Directors that is representative of the community and nominated by the Board of Education, the Cincinnati Preschool Promise, and the Trusted Entity. The Trusted Entity would provide administrative and financial support to the Preschool Expansion Organization and would contract with the Preschool Expansion Organization to operate the programs. In this way, the Preschool Expansion Organization would be functionally autonomous as a separate non-profit corporation that is financially accountable to the Trusted Entity and ultimately the Board of Education.

Accordingly, responses to the request for proposal shall include a proposed governance structure for the Preschool Expansion Organization that is representative of the diversity of the CPS community, such as parents and families, labor, business, community and civic organizations, faith-based organizations, and local service providers. The Board of Trustees should be comprised of the following:

1. Five (5) individuals nominated by the Board of Education;
2. Five (5) individuals nominated by the Cincinnati Preschool Promise; and
3. Five (5) individuals nominated by the Trusted Entity; and

WHEREAS, a Workforce Development Council shall be established by the Board of Education to ensure, without duplication of existing functions, that all preschool providers maintain applicable, professional employment standards, livable wages with wage parity, and curricular alignment to state learning standards, and it will monitor and report contract non-compliance to the Trusted Entity and ultimately the CPS Board; and

WHEREAS, all contracts and funds disbursed for preschool expansion shall comply with Board Policies; including Board Policy 2255 Equity and Excellence in Education; Board Policy 6450 Equal and Fair Opportunity in Contract Employment and Business Opportunities; and Board Policy 6320.03 Local Business Enterprise Initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Cincinnati Public Schools directs the administration to develop a request for proposal and take all other necessary steps for the implementation of this shared vision and plan for preschool expansion.

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