



RESOLUTION

*Board of Education
Tulsa Public Schools*

WHEREAS Tulsa Public Schools is an independent school district in the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education is composed of seven locally and duly elected board members; and

WHEREAS those board member's offices are reflective of the desires of the voters residing within the boundaries of Tulsa Public Schools; and

WHEREAS the voters of the Tulsa Public Schools deserve to have their votes honored in electing the seven board members of the Board of Education who represent them; and

WHEREAS local control is an established means through which individuals and institutions closest to students and the most knowledgeable about the schools are empowered to make important decisions with their local community; and

WHEREAS parental involvement is highly desired to positively impact student outcomes and local control affords increased opportunities for parents to interact with the governing body of the district; and

WHEREAS locally elected officials are deeply invested in the welfare and success of educators, students, and community, and are accountable to them; and

WHEREAS the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education remains committed to the health, safety, and academic success of our students; and

WHEREAS the Tulsa Public Schools have a strategic plan in place; and

WHEREAS the strategic plan was developed with the community and adopted by the board in 2021; and

WHEREAS the goals for that strategic plan were met in the 2022-2023 school year; and

WHEREAS a state takeover would create increased destabilization for approximately 34,000 students when they deserve the benefits accruing to continuity of leadership; and

WHEREAS the Oklahoma State Department of Education Department of Accreditation has policies, procedures, and statutes in place to complete accreditation audits and determine resultant levels of accreditation; and

WHEREAS the Oklahoma State Department of Education Accreditation Standards Division recommended that the Tulsa Public Schools District be granted accreditation with two deficiencies; and

WHEREAS our district is one of the largest employers in our county and public education nationwide is one of the largest employers of any organization, public or private; and

WHEREAS accreditation with probation or accreditation not recommended would open the door for a state takeover of the Tulsa Public Schools; and

WHEREAS a large government takeover will damage the regional and state economy and destabilize funding for public schools; and

WHEREAS a state takeover would create destabilization for staff and teachers in a time when finding both certified and support staff is more challenging than ever; and

WHEREAS district and urban public-school systems across the country are unique and complex, requiring actively and immediately available board members; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education calls on the State Board of Education, to advocate for and approve the accreditation of Tulsa Public Schools per the recommendation of the Oklahoma State Department of Education Accreditation Standards Division, "Accredited with Deficiencies."

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education at its special meeting held this day, August 15, 2023.

Stacey Woolley, Board President – District 1

John Croisant, Vice President – District 5

Diamond Marshall, Board Member – District 2

Jerry Griffin, Board Member – District 6

Jennettie Marshall, Board Member – District 3

Susan Lamkin, Board Member – District 7

E'Lena Ashley, Board Member – District 4