**Appendix 10**

**WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
**UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 259**
**WICHITA, KANSAS**

RESOLUTION 2023-[12]

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURSUIT OF LITIGATION TO REDRESS HARMS CAUSED BY SOCIAL MEDIA

September 11, 2023

The dangers of social media and the various harms that it causes to youth mental health present a source of urgent concern.

School-age children are especially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions, and harmful peer comparisons that social media encourages. Forty percent of children ages eight through 12 use social media. Among children ages 12 through 17, usage rises to ninety-five percent, with a third of that age group reporting "almost constant" use. Social media exposes our children to content that encourages body dissatisfaction, eating disorders, negative social comparison, and low self-esteem. Unsurprisingly, studies show a consistent relationship between youth depression and excessive social media use.

Educators are on the front lines of a fight to protect our youth from the unhealthy use of social media. It invades and disrupts our classrooms. It interrupts instruction. Its use by students distracts our staff from their educational mission. Resources are continually diverted to abate and prevent the improper use of social media in the educational environment and mitigate its harmful effects.

The Surgeon General's Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health calls on technology companies to join parents, caregivers, and others in addressing the growing concerns about the effects of social media on youth mental health. Technology companies, the advisory urges, "play a central role and have a fundamental responsibility to design a safe online environment and in preventing, minimizing, and addressing the risks associated with social media." Swift, decisive action must be taken to protect children and adolescents from social media-based harm.

We agree. Because we care deeply about our staff, students, and their families, the Board of Education has resolved that Wichita Public Schools should join the many other school districts nationwide who have determined to use the courts to seek a remedies from the companies who are primarily responsible for these harms.

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 259 (Wichita), Sedgwick County, Kansas, that the law firms of Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP, and Ferrara Fiorenza PC are hereby authorized to initiate litigation and file suit against any appropriate parties to seek remedies designed to redress the damages suffered by Wichita Public Schools and its students as a result of the development, operation, and marketing of social media platforms, and to seek any other appropriate relief. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or his designee to sign all appropriate documents and fee agreements on behalf of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, this resolution is hereby introduced and adopted by Unified School District No. 259 at its regular meeting held on [Date].