RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION 2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Board of Education of the Berea City School District, held a public meeting, at Berea-Midpark High School, 165 E. Bagley Road, Berea, Ohio 44017 at 7:00 p.m. on March 22, 2023 with the following members in attendance: Ana Chapman, Cori Farris, Rick Mack, Neal Postel, Heather Zirke.

Ana Chapman moved and Heather Zirke seconded the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Berea City School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), and

WHEREAS, the OSBA advocates on behalf of its member school districts with legislators in the state of Ohio consistent with the member adopted legislative platform, and

WHEREAS, the legislative platform is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts at the OSBA Delegate Assembly, and

WHEREAS, the 65th OSBA Delegate Assembly adopted the 2021 OSBA Legislative Platform that added a Racism/Equity plank to the "Students and Learning" section of that platform, And

WHEREAS, the plank addresses the racial and socioeconomic inequalities and specifically addresses creating an inclusive environment no matter a student's race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background, and

WHEREAS, the plank does not address a student's sexual orientation or gender identity, and

WHEREAS, Berea Board of Education remains staunchly opposed to all forms of discrimination on the basis of one's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, ability, age, citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender-identity or expression, socio-economic status, title or other dimensions of identity, as written in our Resolution of Commitment to Equity and Excellence in Education of July 14, 2020.

WHEREAS, we believe the Racism/Equity plank should address all students,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Berea City School District that the first paragraph of the Racism/Equity plank be rewritten with the following highlighted changes:

There is no place for racism or hatred in our schools. We acknowledge the historical,

generational and compounding reality of the systems, structures and practices that have created and continue to afford advantages to some groups while perpetuating inequities for others. Racial, and socioeconomic, sexual orientation and gender identity inequalities produce unequal opportunities for student success. Strong public schools are the great equalizer, and education provides the foundation to change perceptions and attitudes. It is imperative that Ohio implement meaningful solutions that eliminate racism, social injustice, including injustices based on sexual orientation and gender identity, disparate discipline and bias, as well as foster equity to provide a catalyst for sustained improvement for students of color and impoverished communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the second paragraph of the plank be rewritten with the following highlighted changes:

Inequitable systems of school finance at the federal, state and local levels, including special grants, caps and guarantees, fail to provide schools with adequate or sufficient funding to achieve a world-class education necessary to prepare students for the future. OSBA is committed to ensuring school boards have the resources they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities with a high-quality education. It is essential that we create an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic background.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the language in the "OSBA supports legislation" section includes the following highlighted changes:

Creates an inclusive environment that ensures students are provided opportunities for achievement and success no matter their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic background.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the language in the "OSBA opposes legislation" section includes the following highlighted changes:

Limits resources and/or opportunities for students of color and those who are traditionally underserved based on their ethnicity, or socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to deliver or cause to be delivered this resolution through email and mail a certified copy to Jennifer Hogue, OSBA Director of Legislative Services (jhogue@ohioschoolboards.org).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board were in meetings open to the

public, in compliance with legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

| Ayes: Chapm | an | Farris | | Mack | |
|-------------------|----------|--------|-----------|------|--|
| - | Postel | | Zirke | | |
| Nays: <u>NONE</u> | <u> </u> | | | | |
| Corunne a. Jarres | | | Jene Gett | | |
| President | | | Member | | |
| Ana Chapman | | | A. Taka | | |
| Vice President | | | Member | _ | |
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