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Resolution Supporting Establishment of Local Capital Fund

WHEREAS, a local facilities committee has been involved in a comprehensive study of long-term capital needs in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, the facilities committee was comprised of Board members and administrators representing the Board of County Commissioners, The Board of Trustees of Montgomery Community College, and the Board of Education of Montgomery County Schools; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the work and research of the facilities committee, it was concluded that significant improvements are needed to the overall Pre-K-16 educational system and facilities in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, significant investments in education can improve the quality of the education system and facilities; and

WHEREAS, improved educational outcomes is a primary driver of economic development; and

WHEREAS, improvements are needed, in particular, in the areas of STEM and Career and Technical (CTE) education to keep Montgomery County competitive in the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, improvements in STEM and CTE courses require significant technological and facility resources to be competitive and successful; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of County facilities that will need continued work and/or renovation in addition to educational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County has been unable to make significant investments in upgrading educational facilities specifically since the Great Recession of 2008, with the exception of a ¼ cent sales tax referendum to repair roofs and other infrastructure needs and purchase much-need activity buses; and

WHEREAS, such long-term capital investments will improve the overall quality of the educational system in Montgomery County, and better equip students for life in the 21st Century, and will better prepare students for the workforce, and improvements in the workforce will help Montgomery County be more attractive to businesses that wish to locate in the area, and such business relocations will benefit all citizens of Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, funding must be in place before any improvements can be realized, and without such funding any discussion of improvements to existing facilities and/or what facilities are to be improved, where they should be located, what programs should be offered, or the potential impact of such facilities is preliminary and does not ultimately move the county toward the accomplishment of long-term improvement goals; now

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Board of Education formally requests that the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners moves forward with and approves a capital facilities fund as outlined by the facilities committee to address current and future capital facilities needs.

Adopted by the Montgomery County Board of Education this the 13th day of April, 2015.

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Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman

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Dr. Dale Ellis, Secretary to the Board