BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CARROLL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION

Resolution Denouncing the United States Department of Education's Retaliation Against CISD

Through its Office of Civil Rights

WHEREAS the Carroll Independent School District ("CISD" or "the District") Board of Trustees (the "Board of Trustees" or the "Board") has been informed that the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights ("the "Government") is re-opening its already-completed investigation of three grievances from the 2020 – 2021 school year after CISD refused to accept the Government's costly, unlawful, and unexplained "resolution";

WHEREAS the District shares the Government's vital mission to provide equal access to high-quality education and protect the civil rights of all students and, as an independent school district, bears the primary responsibility for educating students in Southlake, Texas;

WHEREAS the District has fully cooperated with the Government's investigation over the last three years, provided thousands of pages of evidence that demonstrates CISD's legal compliance with civil rights laws, and spent thousands of staff hours and more than \$320,000 in community tax dollars;

WHEREAS the Board has thoroughly reviewed the District's handling of these grievances and firmly stands behind the teachers, principals, counselors, and administrators who conducted timely and effective investigations, imposed appropriate discipline where necessary, and ensured full compliance with civil rights laws;

WHEREAS the District's obligations to protect privacy rights by limiting disclosure of evidence in individual cases has created public confusion and placed District staff members and educators at a severe disadvantage, burdening them with false misrepresentations they cannot correct;

WHEREAS on May 6, 2024, the District received a letter from the Government stating that it had "completed its investigations," along with a proposed resolution agreement and a 90-day response deadline;

WHEREAS the Government, despite multiple requests by the District, refused to provide <u>any</u> of the findings or evidence from its three-year long investigation that allegedly supported the proposed resolution;

WHEREAS after evaluating the nearly twenty-page proposed resolution, the District determined that accepting it would unjustifiably impose onerous obligations that extend beyond the District's already complex and administratively burdensome obligations under existing federal law (with which the District has fully complied), and cost the community even more tax dollars;

WHEREAS on August 5, 2024, at the end of the 90-day period, the District declared a negotiation impasse due to the lack of transparency and cooperation from the Government;

WHEREAS during a conference call on September 19, 2024, the Government again refused to provide any of its written findings or conclusions, and further refused to declare an impasse, instead choosing to re-open the investigations and request additional documentation from the District—punishing the District by burdening it with increased taxpayer expenses and the further consumption of valuable staff time;

WHEREAS the Government's refusal to declare an impasse (as required by its own procedures) has prevented the process from moving forward to the next step, which would require the Government to issue a Letter of Impending Enforcement Action and finally provide the District with its findings, conclusions, and evidence supporting them in a written Statement of the Case;

WHEREAS the District is concerned the Government's actions are impeding progress toward the mutual goal of ensuring equal access to high-quality education for all students;

WHEREAS the District remains fully committed to promoting a safe and effective educational environment for all students and to encouraging parents and students to bring any and all concerns regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying to the attention of District officials for prompt resolution;

NOW, LET IT BE HEREBY RESOLVED,

THAT the Board of Trustees denounces the actions of the Government in re-opening the already-completed investigations and views this decision as a retaliatory measure—designed to punish the District for refusing to blindly sign a proposed resolution without any justification and further designed to coerce the District into agreeing to a costly proposed resolution in order to avoid the costs of cooperating in the re-opened investigation;

THAT the Board of Trustees urges the Government to abide by its own policies—declare an impasse and provide the District with a Letter of Impending Enforcement Action and Statement of the Case so the findings, conclusions, and evidence from the years-long investigation may finally be reviewed by the Board of Trustees.