GUNNISON WATERSHED SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J

Resolution # 11102575

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE GUNNISON WATERSHED SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVE ON THE NOVEMBER 2026 BALLOT TO INCREASE K-12 FUNDING AND ENHANCE EDUCATOR SALARIES.

WHEREAS, Colorado ranks nationally below average in per-pupil funding; in 2024–25, the state funds school districts at an average rate of $11,452 per student, As of 2023, Colorado school districts spent an average of $1,668 less per pupil than the national average;

WHEREAS, Colorado's average starting teacher salary is $42,421, 41st in the nation;

WHEREAS, teachers make 62 cents for every dollar compared to other college educated professionals with similar experience

WHEREAS, educational support professionals (paraprofessionals, custodians, etc.) average just $35,249 in earnings, despite facing increasing responsibilities;

WHEREAS, inadequate school funding leads to teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and deteriorating facilities, and local district budgets remain strained despite occasional bond and mill-levy efforts;

WHEREAS, two independent adequacy studies commissioned by state lawmakers concluded that Colorado would need to spend $3.5 billion to $4.1 billion more to adequately resource K-12 public schools;

WHEREAS, a statewide ballot measure in November 2026 could enable a sustainable and equitable long-term funding solution, helping to:

- Close the per-pupil funding gap,
- Raise average teacher and staff pay to a competitive level,
- Recruit and retain high-quality educators in every Colorado classroom,
- And support safe, well-equipped learning environments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of Education of Gunnison Watershed School District supports the development of a November 2026 statewide ballot initiative to increase funding for Colorado K–12 education and raise educator and staff salaries.

2. If an initiative is developed, the Board will assess the proposal and decide whether to provide support.

ADOPTED this 10th day of November, 2025

GUNNISON WATERSHED SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: _____
President, Board of Education

Attest:

_____
Secretary, Board of Education