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STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

Citywide Committee:

The Denver Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution on March 16 that establishes a citywide committee to:

- Review changing demographics and housing patterns in our city and the effect on our schools.
- Make recommendations on our policies around boundaries, choice, enrollment and academic programs to drive greater socio-economic integration in our schools.
- Consider how to think about school choice and school consolidation to ensure that our schools offer high-quality, sustainable programs for our kids in the face of sharp declines in the number of school-aged children in gentrifying neighborhoods
- Complete the work in approximately six months and present recommendations to the Denver Board of Education for consideration.



The Goal:

In DPS, we believe that students and families thrive when they have high-quality education choices. The top goal in the Denver Plan – DPS' five-year strategic plan – is to have great schools in every neighborhood.

DPS is committed to operating and sustaining high-quality, socio-economically integrated schools in our communities. We believe that high-quality, integrated schools not only offer the best educational outcomes for our children but also serve a vital function in promoting and sustaining vibrant neighborhoods.

The Challenge:

As Denver continues to grow and housing prices increase, our diverse neighborhoods are struggling to balance the challenges of gentrification with their rich cultural histories. Many parts of Denver are undergoing major shifts in demographics, which is resulting in significant changes in housing patterns and a major reduction in many neighborhoods of school-aged children.

The Plan:

To address these concerns, DPS is creating the Strengthening Neighborhoods initiative to engage a broad coalition of partners in the creation of a blueprint, in the face of neighborhood changes, to increase racial and socio-economic diversity in our schools.

DPS will establish a committed group of partners to help us improve integration in our schools and address issues of school consolidation in neighborhoods that are losing the highest number of school-aged children.



Additional Information:

To learn more, please contact Ramona Lewis at Ramona_Lewis@dpsk12.org or visit our website at neighborhoods.dpsk12.org.

March 16, 2017

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER,
STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

The Resolution for Strengthening Neighborhoods

WHEREAS, Denver Public Schools (DPS) is committed to operating and sustaining high-quality, socio-economically integrated schools in our communities;

WHEREAS, we believe that high-quality, integrated schools not only offer the best educational outcomes for our children but also serve a vital function in promoting and sustaining vibrant neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, many parts of Denver are undergoing major shifts in demographics and gentrification, which is resulting in significant changes in housing patterns and a major reduction in many neighborhoods of school-aged children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a citywide committee be formed to review changing demographics and housing patterns in our city and the effect on our schools and to make recommendations on our policies around boundaries, choice, enrollment and academic programs in order to drive greater socio-economic integration in our schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the face of the sharp decline in the number of school-aged children in gentrifying neighborhoods, the committee is also charged with how to think about school choice and school consolidation to ensure that our schools are able to offer high quality, sustainable programs for our kids.

Anne Rowe, President

Happy Haynes, Secretary