

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, RE-1**

**REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE
NOVEMBER 2014 COORDINATED ELECTION**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education received an excellent, data-driven report from the Board's Long-Range Planning Committee on June 17, 2014 regarding the District's 2014 Master Capital Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Master Capital Plan identified significant current and future capital needs related to the projected growth of the District, as well as related to the District's aging facilities crucially in need of repair and maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, Douglas County taxpayers continue to export vast amounts of capital to other Colorado school districts, some of which may have a legitimate need for supplemental resources in delivering high-quality educational services to their local communities, while others have no such need at all, and still others are receiving far more in subsidies from Douglas County than they appropriately need; and,

WHEREAS, several school districts that are receiving subsidies from Douglas County have consistent track records of poor performance, low graduation rates, antiquated compensation frameworks and systems, and other indicators of systemic failure; and,

WHEREAS, the Douglas County School District has been consistently underfunded by the State of Colorado, receiving some of the lowest Per Pupil Revenue (PPR) in the entire state of Colorado; and,

WHEREAS, if the District simply received the *average* PPR in the State of Colorado, it would result in approximately \$21 million in additional revenues for our local needs, including capital reinvestment and capital growth; and,

WHEREAS, the Board believes that it cannot, in good conscience, ask Douglas County taxpayers to dig deeper and provide even more local tax revenues, until the District has had a full and fair opportunity to seek redress from the General Assembly and other state decision-makers concerning the massive funding inequality and inequity that our District is experiencing in relation to other school districts; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is convinced that, because Douglas County taxpayers believe they are paying top-dollar for state-wide education – in the form of substantial income, sales, property, and other taxes – they are simply unlikely to approve any local ballot measure that will further increase their tax burden; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education refuses to indulge the obvious financial game of

chicken being played by majorities in the General Assembly, who appear to be holding back funding from Douglas County until our District agrees to seek to impose more local taxes on its own constituents or see our facilities decay and our growth needs go unmet; and,

WHEREAS, if the Board of Education were to consider putting a bond question on the ballot in 2014, the Douglas County Clerk and Recorder requires notice by July 24, 2014 to conduct a coordinated election; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to take the time necessary thoroughly to study and deliberate the feasibility of the means by which the District's capital needs can best be met.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent or her designee to notify the Douglas County Clerk and Recorder that the District will not be participating in a coordinated election or placing any question on the November 4, 2014 ballot; and,
2. That the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent or her designee to continue fully to study all available ways and means to address the future capital needs of the District and provide periodic reports to the Board of Education on those efforts; and,
3. That the Board of Education and its committees, with the support of the Superintendent or her designees, shall work cooperatively over the next year to educate the community regarding the District's capital needs, to obtain the feedback and input of taxpayers about those needs, and to discover the best, most cost-effective, and most fiscally responsible means to address those needs.

APPROVED this 15th day of July, 2014, by a vote of 5-0

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

By: 

Kevin P. Larsen, President
Board of Education

Attest:

By: 

Secretary, Board of Education