

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL
OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

WHEREAS, precisely 150 years ago today, on November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his oration on the occasion of the dedication and consecration of the national cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; and,

WHEREAS, President Lincoln was drawn to that sacred ground because, in a three-day battle that took place the previous summer, over 50,000 casualties were suffered by the Union and Confederate armies that struggled there, making it the bloodiest battle in the American Civil War; and,

WHEREAS, in his speech that lasted only about two minutes, President Lincoln reminded the American people about the genesis of their freedom and their liberty; pointed the American people to the tremendous self-sacrifice that had taken place in the battlefield before them to advance that freedom and liberty; and, challenged the American people to “the unfinished work” that lay ahead in the cause of that freedom and liberty; and,

WHEREAS, the nearly 65,000 students of the Douglas County School District are the direct and proximate beneficiaries of the noble sacrifices of the generations that came before them, including the soldiers who died on the Gettysburg battlefield, to preserve and enhance the exceptional American Project in human dignity and human rights; and,

WHEREAS, it is the considered opinion and deliberate view of the Douglas County Board of Education that, in the words of President Lincoln, our students should “never forget” the sacrifices that make their freedom possible, and that they consequently must first learn about the scope and depth of those sacrifices as part of an education that prepares them for future global leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Douglas County Board of Education that:

1. The Board marks and remembers the stirring words of President Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address on the solemn occasion of its sesquicentennial.
2. The Board urges the stakeholders of the Douglas County School District – teachers, students, parents and taxpayers – to pause in remembrance of the crucial importance of the Gettysburg Address as a vivid and eloquent expression of both the noble genesis and the bright future of the American Project.
3. The Board emphatically joins with President Lincoln in being “highly resolved” that “this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

APPROVED THIS 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2013, by a vote of 6-0.



President, Board of Education

ATTEST: 