

WHEREAS, the Pana C.U.S.D. # 8 School District desires to continue to provide its students a high-quality education that meets rigorous standards;

WHEREAS, Article X of the Illinois Constitution requires that:

“The State shall provide for an efficient system of high quality public educational institutions and services. Education in public schools through the secondary level shall be free. There may be such other free education as the General Assembly provides by law. The State has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education.”

WHEREAS, the State was previously excused from its obligations by the Illinois Supreme Court in *Committee for Educ. Rights v. Edgar*, 174 Ill. 2d 1 (1996) on the basis that the Illinois Constitution did not provide standards to determine what constituted a “high quality” education;

WHEREAS, since 1996, the State has set forth specific and rigorous standards to measure if each student is receiving the “high quality” education promised by the Constitution;

WHEREAS, the State has imposed these standards state-wide, rather than allowing each district to create its own standards; AND

WHEREAS, the State has refused to adequately fund the costs associated with implementing its own standards and has abdicated from its constitutional duty to bear the “primary responsibility” for financing public education, and in doing so has unreasonably and unlawfully burdened local taxpayers;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

1. The Pana C.U.S.D. # 8 School District will seek to hold the State to its constitutional obligation to have “primary responsibility for financing the system of public education.”
2. The Pana C.U.S.D. # 8 School District will partner with other school districts to bring a collective and/or class action lawsuit to hold the State accountable to the District’s students, parents, and community members.
3. To pursue these goals, the Pana C.U.S.D. # 8 School District allocates one-thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to retain the law firm Despres, Schwartz & Geoghegan, Ltd. to bring such a lawsuit. This amount is the full extent of the Pana C.U.S.D. # 8 District’s obligation, subject only to a future agreement subject to approval of the Board by a majority vote.
4. To pursue these goals, the Pana C.U.S.D. # 8 School Board authorizes the Superintendent as follows:
  - a. To pay a one-thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) retainer to the law firm Despres, Schwartz & Geoghegan, Ltd.

- b. To enter into such agreements and to take such actions as are necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution.

Upon motion by member \_\_\_\_\_ to adopt the above Resolution, seconded by Member \_\_\_\_\_, a roll call was taken, and the Members voted as follows:

Members Voting Aye

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Members Voting Nay

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The President declared the Motion duly carried this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

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President, Board of Education

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board Education