

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADEQUATELY FUNDING MICHIGAN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Michigan Constitution states the legislature shall maintain and support a system of free public elementary and secondary schools as defined by law; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s 21st Century Education Commission states the urgency could not be greater regarding our falling K-12 performance, given that Michiganders underperform their peers, ranking 41st on fourth-grade reading performance nationally; and

WHEREAS, these unacceptable statewide outcomes are clearly not a result of changing demographics as some suggest, as Michigan’s higher-income and white students are also among the worst performing in the country; and

WHEREAS, the way we fund Michigan’s public schools is fundamentally broken; and

WHEREAS, we must reexamine our approach and develop an equitable funding formula model that ensures ALL students, regardless of their circumstances, can achieve and succeed; and

WHEREAS, the School Finance Research Collaborative is a broad-based, diverse and bipartisan group of community, business and education leaders, from Metro Detroit to the U.P., who agree it’s time to change how our schools are funded to cover the true cost of educating students; and

WHEREAS, the School Finance Research Collaborative adequacy study provides lawmakers and the public with the best, most accurate and reliable information on what it truly costs to educate ALL Michigan students; and

WHEREAS, the SFRC report and other research clearly demonstrates the need to increase funding for our schools and target education funding more effectively; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Vicksburg Community Schools District calls upon the Michigan Legislature to fulfill its commitment to maintain and support a system of free public elementary and secondary schools with the resources recommended in the School Finance Research Collaborative report to enable each child to achieve proficiency on Michigan standards; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Michigan’s school funding formula should reflect the true cost of providing an education that meets the individual needs of each child with a weighted formula for students in poverty, special education and English language learners, giving all an equal opportunity to meet the performance standards set by the State of Michigan and the State Board of Education.

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Vicksburg Community Schools, Vicksburg, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting held on May 13, 2019, the original of which is part of the Board’s minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the “Open Meetings Act” (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

Secretary, Board of Education