

Resolution No. _____

TO SUPPORT THE NETWORK FOR EXCELLENCE IN WASHINGTON SCHOOLS (NEWS)

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 1 of the Washington Constitution mandates that it is the paramount duty of the State to make ample provision for the education of all children residing in our State; and

WHEREAS, the State enacted House Bill 1209 (now RCW 28A.150.210(1)-(4)) and adopted the State's nine Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) to establish academic standards for all K-12 students in the State's public schools; and

WHEREAS, the State has never determined, nor amply funded, the actual cost to school districts of providing all students a realistic or effective opportunity to become equipped with the knowledge and skills set forth in the State's K-12 academic standards; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has long underfunded, and continues to underfund, this district's provision of K-12 education, requiring this district to rely upon local levies, bonds and other non-State funding to cover the costs of necessary education basics such as facilities, technology, textbooks or student transportation; and

WHEREAS, the coalition of school districts and others in the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS) joined with two public school families in the *McCleary v. State* case to sue the State for violating its paramount duty under Article IX, section 1; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2010, the Washington Superior Court in that case entered a Final Judgment holding that the State is violating Article IX, section 1, and ruling that "paramount" means the State must amply fund K-12 education before it funds anything else; that "ample" means State funding must be more than just adequate; that "all" children means all children – not just those who are easy to teach; that "education" means the knowledge and skills in our State's high academic standards rather than programs or funding formulas in State statutes; and that it is unconstitutional to require districts to rely on levies, bonds or other non-State funds to pay for basics like facilities, technology, textbooks or transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Superior Court's Final Judgment ordered the State to determine the actual cost of amply providing the above knowledge and skills to all public school children, and to fund that actual dollar cost with stable and dependable State funding; and

WHEREAS, the State has chosen to appeal this ruling to the Washington State Supreme Court, and has appropriated \$950,000 to fund that appeal;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ School District joins and supports the NEWS coalition as NEWS moves forward to defend of the Superior Court's Final Judgment against the State in the *McCleary v. State* case, and hereby resolves to approve a one-time payment of \$_____ (which is approximately \$____ per student in this district) to support the NEWS coalition's defense of the *McCleary v. State* ruling.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of this School District at an open public meeting held on this ____ day of _____, 2010, notice of which was given as required by law, the following directors being present and voting therefore.