

Resolution to provide relief funding for schools during COVID-19 emergency

WHEREAS, local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that ALL students receive care during all times and in particular during times of crisis; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walz's executive orders made plain that school districts provide many more essential services beyond education to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Community Education, Early Childhood, School Nutrition and Wellness Departments in districts across the state are not funded by the state, and are thus funded by fees; and

WHEREAS, in Hopkins, Community Education is providing essential support during this time of uncertainty – outreach and support efforts for our district and community, identifying and responding to the needs of families, organizing volunteers, partnering with local agencies, providing food security, supporting social workers and counselors and meeting basic needs; and

WHEREAS, these programs ceased collecting fees on March 18, but continued to realize the expenses of fully staffed, mandated child care for Tier 1 emergency workers and meals for families in need; and

WHEREAS, our fund balance in Community Education of \$2.2 million quickly evaporated under these dire economic conditions, at the rate of \$26,000 per day; and,

WHEREAS, the state and federal government have never fully funded schools; and

WHEREAS, despite the legislature providing some relief to districts by allowing internal fund transfers for dollars not used due to COVID-19 impacts on district service provision, district reserve funds will be depleted resulting in a deficit spending start to school year 2020-2021; and,

WHEREAS, the provision of many critical services has shifted to local communities through education foundations, fee-based programs (like Community Education, Early Childhood and Student Nutrition), grants, and levies, which cover the additional cost of truly educating and supporting families; and,

WHEREAS, school districts are the right provider for these essential services, having the necessary expertise and established relationships with families; and,

WHEREAS, local boards of education have been forced to reduce hours, position redesigns, and layoff around **115** of our Hopkins child-care staff and an additional **60** members of our nutrition staff; and,

WHEREAS, schools are the heart of our community and local boards of education take their charge of care seriously and need an intact staff to provide the essential services our families need.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Hopkins Public Schools urges the Minnesota Governor, the Cabinet, and the Legislature to provide additional relief funding to school districts during the COVID-19 state of emergency, to keep districts intact and to retain those frontline employees who are providing the care Minnesota families need during this crisis.

On Behalf of the ***Hopkins Public Schools*** Board of Directors:

NAME, Board Chair

Passed on a vote of **XX** ayes; **XX** nays

Dated: