

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OPPOSITION TO CHARTER SCHOOLS LOCATING
WITHIN OR NEARBY DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**

WHEREAS, Indiana law permits new charter schools to be created;

WHEREAS, the legal process to create new charter schools require public approvals, public hearings, and approval from an authorizer;

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township (“District”) recently discovered that Paramount School of Excellence, Inc. (“Paramount”) seeks to open a charter school within District boundaries;

WHEREAS, Paramount did not supply the District or community with appropriate notices or hold the required public hearings pursuant to Indiana law to solicit District input;

WHEREAS, the residents living within District boundaries are not served well by charter schools, as illustrated by the Executive Director of the Indiana Charter School Board James Betley when he said in a November 30, 2023, news article, “[The Indiana Charter School Board] do[esn’t] authorize in Indianapolis any more, really. It’s too crowded. It’s oversaturated. There are too many schools.”;

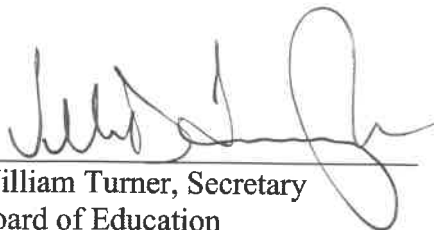
WHEREAS, the District experienced overall increases in IREAD-3, ILEARN, and graduation rate in 2023 among its students;

WHEREAS, in contrast, charter schools post a state average graduation rate of 55%; and


WHEREAS, the Board of Education is authorized by Indiana Code to sue and be sued (Ind. Code § 20-26-5-4(a)(1)) and is further able to “ratify and approve any action taken by a member of the governing body, an officer of the governing body, or an employee of the school corporation after the action is taken, if the action could have been approved in advance” under Indiana Code § 20-26-5-4-(a)(19).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township hereby authorizes the Superintendent, with the assistance of the District’s legal counsel (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP) and District staff, to take all necessary and appropriate action to oppose charter schools locating within or nearby Washington Township Schools, including but not limited to filing complaints with appropriate state and local agencies or civil actions with courts and speaking in opposition at public hearings, and further ratifies the actions in opposition to charter schools located within or nearby Washington Township Schools previously taken by Board of Education members or District staff.

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this 10th day of January, 2024, by at least a majority vote of the entire Board of Education in a public meeting.



William Turner, Secretary
Board of Education



Deirdre George Davis, President
Board of Education