


Jessie S. Hoag
1/3/2018 President


**Seattle School District No. 1
Board Resolution**

Resolution No. 2017/18-9

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington opposing any changes to City of Seattle Municipal Code SMC 23.79, (Attachment A) to allow charter schools to seek departures from building development standards.

WHEREAS, according to City land use notices and a November 30, 2017, Seattle Times article (Attachment D); Washington Charter School Development, Inc. (known as Green Dot) is seeking to construct a new, three story charter high school in southeast Seattle; and

WHEREAS, a charter school in Southeast Seattle would draw students away from Seattle Public Schools including Rainier Beach, Franklin, and Cleveland High Schools, all of which have the mandate, ability, and capacity to provide a college and career ready education to *all of Seattle's students* and each of which is showing steady progress in opportunity and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland High School provides a Choice Option School for STEM for Seattle Public Schools families and had the highest graduation rate of major high schools in the District in the 2016-17 school year at 92%; Rainier Beach High School also has one of Seattle School District's highest graduation rates at 89%, the school offers an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma and all students at Rainier Beach take at least one IB class; and Franklin High School serves a population of 67% students living in poverty and 63% of students who are or were English Language Learners and has raised their graduation rate by 7 percentage points since 2013; and

WHEREAS, Washington state provides funding to public school districts based on the number of students enrolled in those districts and in turn districts use those funds to provide teachers, instructional assistants, counselors, librarians, nurses, family support workers, and other staff necessary to prepare students for college and career; and

WHEREAS, charter schools draw students and thus funding away from already underfunded public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has previously expressed formal opposition to charter schools in Resolution 2015/16-13 and Resolution 2012/13-5 (Attachments B and C); and

WHEREAS, due to existing City development and zoning standards, Green Dot is not permitted to construct the proposed three story building without obtaining departures from restrictions on building height and setbacks; and

WHEREAS, current Seattle Municipal Code (SMC 23.79) allows only Seattle Public Schools, not charter schools, to seek a departure from development standards, preventing Green Dot from obtaining approval for the proposed building; and

WHEREAS, allowing charter schools to build larger schools will negatively impact funding and student enrollment in Seattle Public Schools and will be highly detrimental to the Southeast High Schools' ability serve Seattle students; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle and the Seattle School District No. 1 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on November 20, 2017 (Attachment E) that assured collaboration between the City and the School District in these areas:

Seattle Public Schools' Interests	Category	City of Seattle's Interests
Address school planning capacity needs.	School Capacity	Address school planning capacity needs.
City assists SPS to acquire other properties for potential siting of future schools.		City assists SPS to acquire other properties for potential siting of future schools.
Equitable, inclusive planning process.		Equitable, inclusive planning process.
School facility designs that make everyone feel welcome and included, and foster a healthy environment.	Equity	Seattle Center designs that make everyone feel welcome and included.
Equity in how school resources are allocated		Equity in how school resources are allocated.

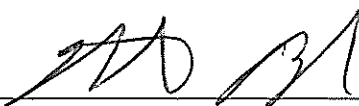
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Seattle School Board of Directors opposes any changes to the Seattle Municipal Code that would allow charter schools to seek departures from development standards or otherwise obtain more favorable treatment under development regulations; and therefore be it further

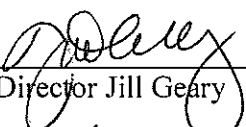
RESOLVED, that Seattle Public Schools respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council not consider or approve any legislation that would allow charter schools to seek departures from development standards or otherwise obtain more favorable treatment under current development and zoning regulations; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall promptly be presented to the Mayor, the Seattle City Council, Green Dot, and the State Charter Commission; and a press release sent by Seattle Schools Communications Department to its press list.


ADOPTED January 3rd, 2017



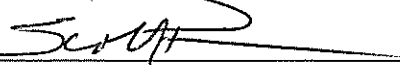
Director Rick Burke



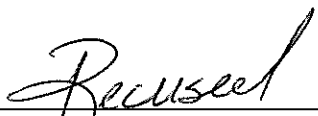
Director Jill Geary



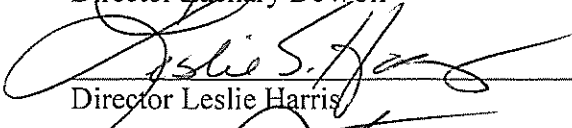
Director Eden Mack



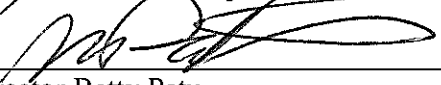
Director Scott Pinkham



Director Zachary DeWolf



Director Leslie Harris



Director Betty Patu

ATTEST: _____
Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, WA