A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington to support the request to waive two school days to provide remote learning professional development to instructional staff.

WHEREAS, Chapter 28A.320 RCW authorizes local school boards to govern their respective districts and RCW 28A.330.100 authorizes local school boards with additional powers to prescribe a course of study, to establish and maintain grade year levels and departments, and to determine the length of time over and above that required by law;

WHEREAS, RCW 28A.150.200 sets forth a program of basic education and RCW 28A.150.220 sets forth the minimum instructional requirements of basic education, including that districts must offer at least one hundred eighty school days and a minimum number of instructional hours for kindergarten, grades one through eight, and nine through twelve;

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in all counties of our state under Chapters 38.08, 38.52, and 43.06 RCW, and directed implementation of the plans and procedures of the state’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and on March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee ordered closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Washington state and issued subsequent orders keeping schools closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year;

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2020, Governor Inslee announced new recommendations from the Washington State Department of Health for resuming in-person instruction in public and private K-12 education for the upcoming 2020–2021 school year. The recommendations allow local health departments and school to districts decide if and how they will allow students back in the classroom, but indicates when COVID-19 infection rates are high, the state strongly recommends school districts move to mostly online or remote learning;

WHEREAS, RCW 28A.150.230 authorizes the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to make rules establishing the terms and conditions for allowing a school district to receive state basic education money, when, due to an emergency school closure, a district is unable to fulfill the statutory requirements of providing one hundred eighty days of operation;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction, recognizing that many school districts were planning for an in-person model, but now must pivot to a remote learning model for the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, established terms and conditions including the submission of an approved board resolution for school districts to request a waiver of school days to provide an opportunity to deliver professional development to assist instructional staff in meeting the needs of their students remotely;
WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools, in negotiations with the Seattle Education Association, agreed that district instructional staff should receive six full days of remote learning professional development prior to the start of the school year and agreed that two of the six days would be days originally scheduled to be school days;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Seattle School Board has reviewed and hereby supports the district’s submission of the special 180-day school year waiver to provide remote learning professional development to the Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction requesting a waiver of two school days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein. The Board warrants that it has, and at the time of this action had, full power and lawful authority to adopt this instrument.

ADOPTED this 7th day of October, 2020

Zachary DeWolf, President

Leslie S. Harris, Member-at-Large

Eden Mack

Lisa Rivera-Smith

Chandra N. Hampson, Vice President

Brandon K. Hersey

Liza Rankin

ATTEST: Denise Juneau, Superintendent,
Secretary, Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, WA