

A RESOLUTION OF THE GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, in accordance with the State School Aid Act, it has long been left to the discretion Local Education Authorities (LEA's) in the state of Michigan to locally determine, by act of the duly elected Board of Education, whether to accept non-resident students to attend their public schools by participating in the state's School of Choice program and

WHEREAS Michigan Governor Rick Snyder in his "Special Message on Education Reform" delivered on April 27, 2011 unequivocally stated that he intends to propose legislation that will no longer allow public school districts in the state of Michigan to opt out of participating in the School of Choice program and

WHEREAS the citizens of the Grosse Pointe Public School System have chosen to make personal sacrifices, including but not limited to investing in premium housing stock, approving in elections to levy upon themselves a Hold Harmless millage and additional millages to maintain and improve the physical plants and other infrastructure in order to establish and maintain an optimal learning environment for the youth of our community and

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System has never chosen to participate in the Schools of Choice program in large part to protect and respect these incremental investments made by our citizens to directly benefit our students and

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System believes that local representation of local concerns regarding policy decisions affecting the educational well-being of our students and the broader well-being of our community is a fundamental tenet of public education in the United States of America and

WHEREAS this contemplated legislation and the stated position of the Governor represents further elimination of the local community's authority, granted by the State School Aid Act, to make decisions at the local level after taking into consideration factors unique to their individual circumstances and representing the will of the local community to make decisions in the best interests of our students therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System requests that Governor Snyder eliminate verbiage from proposed legislation, or legislation being developed, relating to a mandate for Schools of Choice or further erosion of local decision making of Michigan Local Education Authorities, and that a copy of this resolution be immediately provided to the Governor, the legislative leaders of the State House and Senate, all members of the State House and Senate Education Committees, the State Attorney General, the current State Representative and Senator representing all the Grosse Pointe communities and City of Harper Woods.