



“OUR CHILDREN – OUR FUTURE”

Ravenswood City School District
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

2120 Euclid Avenue, East Palo Alto, California 94303
(650) 329-2800 Fax (650) 323-1072

Board Members:
Tamara Sobomehin, President
Stephanie Fitch, Vice President
Marielena Gaona-Mendoza, Clerk
Ana Maria Pulido, Member
Sharifa Wilson, Member

Gina Sudaria
Superintendent

RESOLUTION No. 1262

Ravenswood City School District call for a Moratorium on Charter School Expansion and Strengthening of Transparency and Oversight in Governance and Practice

WHEREAS, since the passage of the 1992 California Charter Schools Act, the number of publicly-funded, and privately-operated charter schools has grown rapidly statewide; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, researchers from Columbia University and the University of Florida found that charter schools nationwide are less likely to respond to enrollment requests from students with significant special needs; and

WHEREAS, a May 2018 a study by In the Public Interest found that charter schools led to a combined net fiscal shortfall of over \$142 million annually for three California school districts; and

WHEREAS, in August 2018, an evaluation of 43 LCAPs for charter schools in five districts, found charter school engagement, transparency, and accountability woefully lacking to such a degree that it was sometimes impossible to determine how charter schools were spending millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, current law requires district campuses to accommodate co-locations of charter schools, resulting in shortages of resources and space and increasing tension and conflict within school communities; and

WHEREAS, local school boards are the best determiners of how local education dollars should be spent to benefit local students, including the appropriate number and type of schools in their district, yet are prohibited under current law from considering such factors when deciding whether or not to approve a charter school petition; and

WHEREAS, The California State Board of Education and the County Boards of Education currently may authorize charter schools within Ravenswood City School District boundaries over the objections of democratically elected School Board Members; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP, the Journey for Justice Alliance, the Movement for Black Lives, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the West Contra Costa Unified School District, the Anaheim Union High School District, the City of Richmond, the City of Huntington Park, and other organizations have called for and/or passed a moratorium on charter school expansion and for the strengthening of oversight in governance and practice of charter schools.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ravenswood City School District joins the above organizations and hereby supports a moratorium on the establishment of new charter schools in the state of CA, and will support state legislation introduced and enacted to establish such a moratorium; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, The Ravenswood City School District supports and will work with educational, community and labor partners to pass the following legislation to better oversee California charter schools:

- **AB 1505**, which improves charter school accountability by returning charter school authorization and oversight to the communities where they are located while also allowing authorizers to consider the economic, facility and academic impact of new charter schools on existing neighborhood schools;
- **AB 1506**, which caps the unregulated growth of privately-managed charter schools;
- **AB 1507**, which increases local control by preventing charter schools from locating outside the district that authorized them;
- **SB 756**, which imposes a five-year charter school moratorium; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with the California Charter Schools Act (EC Section 47600 et. seq.), and in order to ensure equitable access to all to a quality public education, the Ravenswood City School District shall conduct a full, open, and thorough analysis of the potential financial and educational impacts that the expansion and addition of charter schools will have on Ravenswood City School District traditional public schools; this analysis, which shall be made public upon completion, shall include, but not be limited to, investigation of the following:

1. The demographics of charter school students by subgroup as compared to nearby Ravenswood City School District non-charter schools, including students with disabilities, students with social-emotional needs, newcomer students, English learners, foster youth, and homeless/transitional students;
2. The net fiscal impact of existing charter schools on Ravenswood City School District, and our students;
3. The number/percentage of students at charter schools who are disciplined, including expulsions, suspensions (in school, out of school, and teacher initiated), detentions, office discipline referrals, and alternative forms of discipline, as well as the reasons for discipline, disaggregated by the subgroups listed above;

4. The number/percentage of students leaving charter schools, as well as the reasons for the departures, the race/special needs profile of each student transferred out, and the receiving school;
5. Teacher credentialing and teacher retention;
6. The frequency, location, and timing of Board meetings and the mechanisms in place to ensure parental and stakeholder involvement in the school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The District shall, in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, conduct and publicly issue an educational and community impact analysis as part of the process of considering co-location of a charter school on a Ravenswood City School District campus. The report will address the full learning needs of all students at the school being considered for co-location, and determine the potential financial, academic, and socio-emotional impact of charter school co-location on the existing campus and students attending other schools within the surrounding community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Consistent with the Board's fiduciary duty to the Ravenswood City School District community, as a general rule, all financial transactions including, but not limited to, rent, fees, and leaseholds with charter schools shall maximize the revenue available to the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ravenswood City School District and charter schools in Ravenswood City School District will inform families about their rights accordance to charter laws and CA state laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that per the recently signed SB 126, the Ravenswood City School District shall assess compliance of charter schools with the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, Government Code Section 1090 and the California Political Reform Act; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Ravenswood City School District shall avail itself of the district's right as a charter school authorizer to appoint members to the Board of Directors of each charter school it authorizes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Ravenswood City School District on this 23rd day of May 2019, by the following vote:

AYE's ____ NO's ____ ABSENT ____ ABSTAIN ____

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the Board of Education of the Ravenswood City School District, at a meeting of said Board on May 23, 2019.

X _____
President of the Board

X _____
Clerk of the Board