Whereas, the School Board of the City of Richmond is responsible for the budget for Richmond Public Schools; and

Whereas, funding for Richmond Public Schools is partly reliant on the City of Richmond; and

Whereas, City Council is responsible for the budget for the City of Richmond; and

Whereas, the Mayor, as provided for in the City Charter, is responsible for submitting a proposed budget to City Council;

Whereas, the School Board of the City of Richmond acknowledges that high-poverty school districts such as Richmond Public Schools require a significantly greater investment in children than school districts with lower rates of poverty to demonstrate acceptable levels of student achievement;

Whereas, the City’s increase to its year-over-year contribution to Richmond Public Schools has increased on average at a rate lower than inflation since Fiscal Year 2017;

Whereas, current funding levels for Richmond’s facilities maintenance are insufficient to maintain highly functioning school buildings;

Whereas, the Richmond School Board has adopted a strategic plan, Dreams4RPS, which requires significant investments in our children to enact;

Whereas, the Mayor has proposed a budget for fiscal year 2020 that includes a historic investment in the children of Richmond Public Schools; and

Whereas, the School Board of the City of Richmond considers its obligation to the students along with the families of approximately 25,000 students to be critical;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the School Board of the City of Richmond that this body:

(a) Affirms its request of the City Council and Mayor for a year over year increase in funds equal to the amount set forth in Mayor Stoney’s proposed budget for Richmond Public Schools for 2019-2020.

(b) Recognizes the many demands for dollars on the City of Richmond and the difficult balancing act required of City Council and the Mayor.

(c) Affirms its understanding and respect of the roles of the School Board, City Council, and the Mayor.

(d) Values and asserts the importance of identifying efficiencies to prioritize the highest value for every dollar.

(e) Respects that Richmond Public Schools' students' families work hard to pay their bills, including taxes to the City of Richmond.

(f) The collective will of the School Board hereby endorses Mayor proposed 2019-2020 budget, which would result in an increase of $37 million of year-over-year funding for Richmond Public Schools.
(g) And that, in the event City Council chooses not to institute a cigarette tax and increase Richmond’s real estate tax to $1.29 per $100 of home value, the School Board collectively urges City Council to demonstrate its commitment to Richmond Public Schools by meeting the school funding levels set forth in Mayor Stoney’s budget.

Dawn Page
Chairman

Jason Kamras
Superintendent

April 15, 2019