

Moment of Integration Resolution:

Whereas, public schools are the backbone and foundation of our democracy, providing young people with the academic knowledge and tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality;

Whereas, we express profound regret and apologize for maintaining segregated and unequal public schools at any time in our history;

Whereas, we honor the citizens who demanded educational equity for all of our children, most notably the members of the NAACP Main Line Branch under the leadership of Isabel Long Strickland;

Whereas, we honor the Board of Directors of 1963 for responding to the demands made to address the unequal resources and inferior education provided to the predominantly African-American students at Ardmore Avenue Elementary School;

Whereas, the decision to ensure equitable resources to all children began with a Board vote on August 26, 1963, to close Ardmore Avenue Elementary School and bus its 223 students, 80 percent of whom were African-American, to four other elementary schools in the district;

Whereas, the "Moment of Integration" therefore formally began with the opening of school on September 5, 1963;

Whereas, the Ardmore Avenue Elementary School played an important role in the support and cultural practice within the African-American community, the burden to pursue an equitable educational experience was just as important and therefore fell heavily on the shoulders of the families of the children who attended Ardmore Avenue Elementary School;

Whereas, the Ardmore Avenue Elementary School families and community advocates took on the responsibility of insisting their children receive a quality education, the benefits of equality and racial integration accrue to all of our children and our entire community;

Whereas, the hopes and dreams of the promise of integration and equality are still a work in progress and requires the efforts of the entire community;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Board recommits to ensure that each student regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, disability, socioeconomic status or any other form of discrimination receives the educational opportunities necessary to ensure the fulfillment of that student's potential;

The Board of School Directors proclaims September 5 a day to honor and remember the "Moment of Integration" in perpetuity.