

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
REGARDING SPECIAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, the vision of the Douglas County School District is to strive to maximize the potential of every student to pursue his or her chosen endeavor in society, including but not limited to postsecondary education, career, or military service; and

WHEREAS, it is the vision of the District's Special Education Department to serve students, families, and schools to provide student-focused programming that meets the unique needs of each learner; and

WHEREAS, in March 2017 U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously to set a new legal standard that schools throughout the country must meet to educate students with special needs. The Justices rejected the "more than de minimis" standard, and raised the standard to require that schools provide "an educational program reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child's circumstances;" and

WHEREAS, the board of education and staff welcome feedback from our community of parents of students with special needs, to inform our work in our efforts toward continuous improvement; and

WHEREAS, one of the action items in the Superintendent's Cabinet 2018 Action Plan is to, "develop and work toward a better educational and mental health structure; build capacity in the school-based staff; identify and fill gaps in support";

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board directs the Superintendent (or designee) and Board Liaison to create a task force made up of both community members and pertinent staff to accomplish the following tasks:


- Create and conduct a survey of parents with students who are receiving, or have received, special education services from the District for the purpose of identifying the current status and collecting feedback.
- Create and conduct a survey of staff members that service our students with special needs.
- Analyze and evaluate the results of this survey and compare such results to proposed systemic changes already planned.
- Identify the District's strengths and weaknesses in delivering special education services to its students. Based on these strengths and weaknesses, modify (as needed to incorporate new findings) District goals for improving the delivery of special education services, prepare recommended improvement actions for achieving such goals and identify tools to measure the District's progress toward such goals.
- Prepare a report outlining the strengths, needs and goals of current Special Education services and school-based services, recommendations and measures for

future focus (including cost) as set forth above and present the report at a Board meeting.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Task Force membership shall be both by invitation and open to the general public; that the Task Force shall collaborate with District staff to establish a regular meeting schedule; and that the Task Force shall establish a timeline to accomplish the tasks set forth above, preferably no later than July 30, 2018. While this task force is open to the public, every effort should be made to have representation from diverse perspectives including neighborhood schools, charter schools, and parents of students previously enrolled in the school district and special education staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board appoints Director Christina Ciancio-Schor as the Board liaison to the Task Force.

APPROVED this 16th day of January, 2018, by a vote of 7-0


David Ray
President, Board of Education

ATTEST:


Krista Holtzmann
Secretary, Board of Education