

Resolution 2016-17: _____

(June 27, 2017)

Whereas, decades of scholarly research show that concentrations of poverty in American schools greatly reduces the likelihood of academic success among the poorest students; and

Whereas, this same research shows that the poorest children have dramatically better academic outcomes when they attend socioeconomically diverse schools where at least half the students are middle class; and

Whereas, the concentration of poverty in the Rochester City School District is among the highest in the nation as evidenced by the federal free and reduced lunch eligibility data that show that no school has fewer than 60 percent low-income students; and

Whereas, the high concentration of poverty in the Rochester City School District means that achieving socioeconomic diversity within district schools alone is not possible; and

Whereas, the New York State Board of Regents are seeking ideas for “promoting integration and avoiding racial and socioeconomic isolation” as part of a strategy to comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); and

Whereas, a 2016 professional survey of city and suburban parents by Great Schools for All found that 83 percent of parents in Monroe County believe that it is “somewhat” or “very important to their child’s education that he or she attend school with children from diverse ethnic, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds;” and

Whereas, outreach by Great Schools for All suggests that some suburban educators would be willing to begin conversations about the feasibility of and advantages of collaborative, inter-district, socioeconomically diverse magnet schools; and

Whereas, inter-district partnerships resulting in countywide magnet schools would impact Rochester City School District plans for future capacity, staffing and programming, and

Whereas, Resolution 2016-17: 427 unanimously adopted on December 15, 2016 requests “a current assessment of district-wide facilities capacity and elementary zone capacity, comprehensive educational needs related to building capacities and a summary of anticipated impacts, and any recommended changes, on each District school and free standing alternative school program;” and

Whereas, Resolution 2016-1:427 further requests a review of any recommendations from the Superintendent resulting from the comprehensive assessment of district wide facilities capacities in a public meeting prior to December 31, 2017; therefore be it

Resolved, the Board of Education amends Resolution 2016-17: 427 to include exploration of possible regional schools, as envisioned by Great Schools for All coalition, and the impact that a regional school (or several regional schools) might have on existing facility and zone capacity, and that any recommendations from such study be included in the

Superintendent's report in the abovementioned public meeting; and be it further

Resolved, that the Board of Education's delegate to the New York School Board Association's Annual Meeting is directed to cast a vote in favor of any resolution supporting a NYSSBA position in favor of regional schools, on the grounds that no regional school is possible without legislative action at the state level.