



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. IX.F.
1/12/2016

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Resolution declaring support for the Oklahoma City Schools Compact, appointing the Mayor and City Manager or their designees as the City's representatives to the Oklahoma City Schools Compact governing body and pledging to support the goals and objectives of the compact and in support of the studies, research and other activity necessary for the Oklahoma City Schools Compact Board to make recommendations to the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area Public Schools Trust and the Oklahoma City Public Schools Board of Education.

Background

In late 2014 a task force of business and community leaders engaged by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber began development of a new framework for community-wide substantive and measureable engagement with the Oklahoma City Public Schools.

The task force was charged with focusing on finding solutions to two key problems: 1) the common changes in elected and administrative leadership of the Oklahoma City Public Schools, which can make it difficult to implement and sustain success in the public schools, and 2) how to facilitate additional engagement of the many community organizations that can help the Oklahoma City Public Schools make needed improvement over an extended timeframe.

After several meetings, the task force recommended establishment of the Oklahoma City Schools Compact whose primary goal is to create, stimulate, accelerate and institutionalize community ownership of the outcomes of the Oklahoma City Public Schools.

In order to ensure the alignment of the purpose, manageability and creation of the Oklahoma City Schools Compact, it has been recommended that a core group of Leadership Partners be assembled to lead the initial efforts of the compact, and that those Leadership Partners be: 1) Oklahoma City Public School District; 2) Greater Oklahoma City Chamber; 3) The Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools; 4) The City of Oklahoma City; and 5) the United Way of Central Oklahoma.

The Leadership Partners began meeting frequently in May 2015 and agreed that the Oklahoma City Schools Compact Governing Body should be composed of ten (10) members with each Leadership Partner

appointing two members. Each member should be either, 1) a key elected or appointed executive officer of the Leadership Partner or 2) a professional leader or senior staff of the Leadership Partner. The Oklahoma City Schools Compact is designed to provide a framework to identify potential solutions and strategies to address the challenges and needs of the Oklahoma City Public School District and the Oklahoma City Public School Board of Education.

The Oklahoma City Schools Compact Governing Body may create and establish Committees and Task Forces whose members should have experience or expertise in the field or focus topic under study and which members may be selected from Leadership Partners, citizens or other organizations. The Oklahoma City Schools Compact Governing Body shall be responsible for: 1) establishing focus topics and tasks for Oklahoma City Schools Compact Committees and Task Forces; 2) review, revise and approve recommendations from committees and task forces; 3) advance recommendations to Oklahoma City Public Schools District and School Board; and 4) provide input, guidance and perhaps additional resources to help implement recommendations to the Oklahoma City Public Schools District (Independent School District No. 89 of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma), the Oklahoma City Public Schools Board of Education, and to the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area Public Schools Trust (commonly known as MAPS for Kids).

The Committees and Task Forces shall be responsible for: 1) review/study/research on best practices and policies in assigned field or focus topics; 2) create, plan and assist in implementing new programs and procedures for the Oklahoma City Public School District; and 3) make recommendations to the OKC Schools Compact and the Oklahoma City Public Schools District in the assigned area of focus.

The Mayor and City Council find that the mission and purposes of the Oklahoma City Schools Compact are consistent with the goals of The City of Oklahoma City to support the improvement and evolution of Oklahoma City's Public Schools. The improvement of the Oklahoma City Public Schools is critical to the economic well-being of the City and its citizens because future job growth and economic productivity will depend on public education to provide a high quality, educated and reliable workforce.

The guiding principles set forth by the Oklahoma City Schools Compact are consistent with the economic development goals of The City of Oklahoma City and participation by The City of Oklahoma City in the Oklahoma City Public Schools Compact will promote the public's security, property, health, safety and welfare of The City of Oklahoma City and its residents.

The City Council finds that the Mayor and City Manager and their designees are qualified to represent The City of Oklahoma City on the Oklahoma City Schools Compact Governing Body. The Mayor and City

Council find pledging to support the studies and research necessary for the Oklahoma City Schools Compact Governing Body to make recommendations and findings to the Oklahoma City Public School District will enable the Compact to better reach its goal to create, stimulate, accelerate and institutionalize community ownership of the outcomes of the Oklahoma City Public Schools and will be of significant benefit to the City's economic development goals.

The Oklahoma City Public School Board adopted the Oklahoma City Schools Compact at their December 14, 2015 meeting.

Review

City Manager's Office

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.

Attachment