

1 **WHEREAS**, historically the Little Rock School District has the most National Merit Semi-Finalists in
2 Arkansas; and

3 **WHEREAS**, according to the State-administered ACT Aspire Exam, twenty-seven (27) of the Little
4 Rock School District’s elementary schools rank on the state’s Top Ten list of achievement in at least one
5 category; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the 2017, Little Rock School District graduating seniors have garnered over \$24 million
7 in scholarships; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Little Rock School District garners significant community support with more than
9 \$19 million worth of volunteer hours donated by community partners; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Little Rock School District has achieved numerous additional positive accolades, of
11 which a selection are listed in Exhibit A to this resolution; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Little Rock School District continues to progress and overcome the academic
13 problems which led to the initial action of the Arkansas Board of Education; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Act 930 of 2017 states that anytime during the second full year following the assumption
15 of authority or anytime thereafter the Board of Education has the authority to take any of a number of steps
16 to expeditiously return a district to local control; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Act 930 of 2017, as one of the alternatives for a Level 5 School District, allows the State
18 Board of Education to set a date to call for the election of a new School District Board of Directors; and

19 **WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest for the positive growth of the City of Little Rock and all of its
20 citizens to come together and be involved in the decisions that must be made to ensure that the Little Rock
21 School District is an excellent choice for education in Central Arkansas this to be accomplished by the
22 Board of Education returning Little Rock schools to the control of a locally-elected School Board.

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY**
24 **OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:**

25 **Section 1.** The Mayor and Members of the Board of Directors request that the Arkansas Board of
26 Education set a date for an election be held for a new Little Rock School District Board in accordance with,
27 and upon the effective date of Act 930 of 2017.

28 **Section 2.** The Mayor and City Clerk are directed to send a copy of this resolution, with any
29 accompanying letter, to the Arkansas Board of Education as soon as possible upon its adoption.

30 **Section 3. Severability.** In the event any portion of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid
31 or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of this
32 resolution, which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or
33 unconstitutional, was not originally a part of the resolution.

34 **Section 4. Repealer.** All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with

1 the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

2 **ADOPTED: June 6, 2017**

3 **ATTEST:**

APPROVED:

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Susan Langley, City Clerk

_____ **Mark Stodola, Mayor**

7 **APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

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Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney

_____ **Vice-Mayor Kathy Webb, Ward 3**

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Director Ken Richardson, Ward 2

_____ **Director Capi Peck, Ward 4**

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Director Doris Wright, Ward 6

_____ **Director B.J. Wyrick, Ward 7**

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EXHIBIT A

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- Little Rock School District (LRSD) is home to Arkansas's only National Council of Teachers of English Writing Award recipient.
- LRSD produced two (2) Dell Scholars; one from J.A. Fair High School and one from Hall High School.
- LRSD has produced Gates Millennium Scholars in back-to-back years.
- Central High School and Parkview High School each have national award-winning debate teams.
- LRSD is home to the USA Brain Bee Champion.
- LRSD is home to the silver medalist in the Genius Olympiad Competition, which is an international science competition.
- LRSD's Teacher of the Year consistently lands among the top four (4) to five (5) finalists for Arkansas Teacher of the Year.
- Little Rock Parkview Arts & Science Magnet and Little Rock Central High Schools were named the 3rd and 6th best Arkansas schools, respectively, by *US News and World Report*.
- Gibbs Magnet Elementary, Forest Heights STEM Academy, Forest Park Elementary and Don Roberts Elementary were named among the top performing schools in literacy and math in Arkansas.
- Forest Park Elementary and Don Roberts Elementary are ranked as two of the highest performing elementary schools in Arkansas.
- Terry Elementary was recognized as an Achieving School, meeting achievement and growth targets for all students.
- Bale Elementary has been recognized for its After-School STEM Program.
- LRSD elementary and middle school students earned the right to represent Arkansas at the Destination Imagination's Global competition.
- An LRSD teacher was named a Top Five Finalist in the 2017 National Teachers Hall of Fame.
- An LRSD teacher was named 2017 Teacher of the Year for the David D. Terry Chapter/Arkansas Air Force Association STEM/Technology Award Recipient

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