

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Partnership between the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) and the new Unified Board of Education (for the Ypsilanti and Willow Run School Districts)

Whereas the WISD served as the facilitator of the Collaboration and Communication Task Force that was created on August 24, 2011 by a resolution adopted by both the Willow Run Community Schools and the School District of Ypsilanti Boards of Education, and

Whereas the WISD led planning efforts during the summer of 2012 that included broad participation of stakeholders from both districts that resulted in the development of seven core values and five essential domains of a new unified district, and

Whereas the WISD worked with local elected officials and the State Superintendent to secure support for the consolidation effort, and

Whereas the WISD played an important role in the information campaign related to the proposed consolidation, and

Whereas the mission of the WISD is to promote the continuous improvement of achievement of every student while providing high quality service to its customers through leadership, innovation, and collaboration, and

Whereas the board of the new unified district is required to manage the affairs of both the Willow Run Community Schools and the School District of Ypsilanti through June 30, 2013, and

Whereas, the board of the new unified district must also oversee the closing down of the two independent districts while simultaneously working toward a successful launch of the new unified district on July 1, 2013, and

Whereas the timeline and complicated nature of transitioning successfully from two deficit districts with academic challenges to a new unified district characterized by academic excellence and financial stability requires outside assistance, and

Whereas the effort to consolidate districts similar to Willow Run Community Schools and the School District of Ypsilanti represents a “trailblazing” and “pioneering” effort as characterized by the State Superintendent, Michael Flanagan, and

Whereas the WISD has demonstrated success in facilitating broad community participation in the two districts leading to a positive outcome in the consolidation election on November 6, 2012, and

Whereas other companies exist that manage mergers in the private sector, but none exist that are dedicated to the merger of school districts, and

Whereas the WISD has knowledge and understanding of the laws, rules, and regulations related to the technical operation of schools and also has knowledge and skilled staff related to educational and programmatic design, and

Whereas the WISD has submitted the Consolidation Grant to the Michigan Department of Education on behalf of the districts, and

Whereas the grant proposal has been reviewed and supported by the unified board of education and includes funding to help cover the cost of the role of the WISD in facilitating the transition from two independent districts into one unified district (including costs for independent audits related to facilities, finances, curriculum and technology), and

Whereas the WISD assisted in the grant application of Success by 6 to secure a supplemental grant of \$40,000 to support the cost of the design of the Family Development Center as proposed during the visioning process, and

Whereas the WISD has expressed a commitment to continuing to seek funding to support the implementation of the design elements for the new district, and

Whereas time is of the essence and failure is not an option,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Unified Board of Education (acting for both the Ypsilanti and Willow Run School Districts) expresses its desire to enter into a formal partnership with WISD for the purpose of assisting the Unified Board in facilitating the transition to a new unified district for the period beginning November 26, 2012 and continuing through December 2014,

And, further, that the funding for this facilitation work will be provided through the Consolidation Grant and other funding streams that WISD is able to secure in support of implementing the vision established by the community,

And, further, that an ad hoc committee of the board will be established to meet with representatives of the WISD in order to review progress and satisfaction with the facilitation services throughout the transition period,

And, further, that while the WISD will serve in a facilitative role and offer its best advice and guidance to the board, that the board of the unified district will ultimately make the final decisions for the new district,

And, finally, that the new district, in partnership with WISD, will continue to make every effort to design and implement a financially viable system that improves academic achievement for students in partnership with students, parents, and the community.

Roll Call Vote:

Members: