

RESOLUTION ON A DISTRICT-WIDE MORATORIUM ON CHARTER SCHOOLS

Introduced by: Dr. Barbara Seals Nevergold, President and Member-at-Large; Sharon Belton-Cottman, Vice President Executive Affairs and Ferry District Member; Dr. Theresa Harris-Tigg, Vice President Student Achievement and East District Board Member; Jennifer Mecozzi, West District Board Member; and Paulette Woods, Central District Board Member for consideration at the September 20, 2017 board meeting

WHEREAS, we believe that all students deserve the best public education regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, creed, religion or learning disability; and

WHEREAS, we believe that no matter what type of school parents choose for their children to attend, their child deserves schooling in a manner that best serves the needs of their child and other similarly-situated children; and

WHEREAS, we believe that all children deserve to be taught by professionally trained, certified teachers; and

WHEREAS, charter schools should be held to the same requirements and standards as school districts and require that all charter school teachers, administrators, and pupil personnel service providers be required to hold the appropriate New York State certificates for their respective areas; and

WHEREAS, similar to public schools, charter schools are required to provide quality free public education for all students, including students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible for the free and reduced price lunch program as mandated by the Charter Schools Act § 2854(2)(a); and

WHEREAS, there are few charter schools within the Buffalo City School District that have self-contained classrooms (e.g. 12:1:1 or 8:1:1 classrooms) for the needs of students with disabilities, which may be required by the student's individual education program; and

WHEREAS, the number of English as a Second Language students in charter schools do not align to the percentage of English as a Second Language students within the Buffalo City School District; and

WHEREAS, some of the charter schools located within the Buffalo City School District, do not reflect the demographics of the population of the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, charter schools return students back to the Buffalo City School District to continue their education; and

WHEREAS, when students leave the Buffalo City School District to attend a charter school there is a financial impact on the District for certain fixed costs, such as utilities and maintenance, which do not stop when a student leaves to attend a charter school; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buffalo City School District urges the State University of New York (SUNY) and the New York Board of Regents to impose a moratorium on the establishment of new charter schools within the Buffalo City School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Buffalo City School District hereby supports a moratorium that the State University of New York (SUNY) and the New York Board of Regents award no additional charters within the Buffalo City School District for a three year period of time from the date of this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Buffalo City School District further urges the State University of New York (SUNY) and the New York Board of Regents to issue a mandate, requirement or amendment to allow local school boards to approve all charter applications within its school district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Buffalo City School District further urges the State University of New York (SUNY) to reconsider its plan to change the certification requirements for teachers who teach at charter schools, which would have a significant impact for all teachers and students as well as the teaching profession; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Buffalo City School District shall establish a mechanism, which is in compliance of the law, to immediately recoup funds for students who return to the Buffalo City School District from charter schools during the academic school year.