

RESOLUTION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF KRS 160.352

To all whom these presents shall come:

WHEREAS, the mission of the Fayette County Public Schools is to create a collaborative community that ensures all students achieve at high levels and graduate prepared to excel in a global society; and

WHEREAS, to provide a world-class education for each and every child, the Fayette County Equity Council was created to monitor and analyze equity issues, advise the Board of Education of Fayette County with respect to equity issues and advocate for achievement by all students regardless of their background and circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Fayette County Equity Council represents the equity conscience of this community; and

WHEREAS, the over 40,000 students who attend the Fayette County Public Schools are the primary and chief stakeholders in the Fayette County Public Schools and the high academic achievement and educational preparation of our chief stakeholders is vital to the quality of life locally, nationally and globally; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky Constitution Section 183 requires the General Assembly of Kentucky to provide for an efficient system of common schools through this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, to minimize the impact of raw patronage politics in the selection of a local superintendent of schools, the Kentucky General Assembly, as part of the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990, passed KRS 160.352; and

WHEREAS, KRS 160.352 requires that each board of education appoint a superintendent of schools upon receiving the recommendations from a screening committee with the screening committee to be established within certain time frames after a determination by the board of education that a vacancy has occurred or will occur in the office of superintendent; and

WHEREAS, KRS 160.352(3), as currently written, requires the screening committee shall be composed of two certified employees of the district, one board of education member, one principal, one parent and one classified employee. KRS 160.352(3) further declares that, should one of these members not be a minority, the screening committee shall be expanded to include one minority parent elected by minority parents; and

WHEREAS, based upon the guidance of Opinion of the Attorney General (OAG) 91-3, the screening committee may only be composed of those representatives explicitly authorized by KRS 160.352; and

WHEREAS, the Lexington Chapter of the NAACP, the Prichard Committee Student Voice Team, members of the Equity Council along with parents, students, community members, board of

education members and other interested stakeholders strongly believe that KRS 160.352 unduly hinders, narrows and limits the composition of the superintendent screening committee; and

WHEREAS, the Fayette County Board of Education emphatically believes that the superintendent screening process must now be amended to provide the necessary voices of the Equity Council as the equity conscience of our community and to student voice as the chief stakeholders who will be most impacted by the selection of a superintendent;

WHEREAS, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the members of the Fayette County Board of Education, do hereby request that the members of the Kentucky General Assembly amend KRS 160.352 during its 2015 session to require any local school district with an Equity Council to appoint one of its members to the Superintendent Screening Committee.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the members of the Fayette County Board of Education request that the members of the Kentucky General Assembly amend KRS 160.352 during its 2015 session to require any local school district to employ a peer-election process to select one high school student to the Superintendent Screening Committee.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the members of the Fayette County Board of Education believe that the addition of a representative from the Equity Council and a student representative permits the General Assembly of Kentucky to fulfill the Kentucky Constitution's requirement to provide for an efficient system of public education and place the needs of our educational system's chief constituency, the students of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, first and foremost so that Kentucky's public education system can ensure that all of Kentucky's students are college and career ready.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the members of the Fayette County Board of Education, pursuant to OAG 91-3, emphatically declare and strongly commit to exercising "the discretion to consult with and to receive recommendations, as well, from other sources than the committee, i.e., interested citizens or groups of citizens, in order to insure consideration of qualified applicants."

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread on the official minutes of the Board of Education and that a copy thereof be sent to the duly elected Representatives and Senators of the Kentucky General Assembly, the Prichard Committee Student Voice Team and the Equity Council.