Resolution

Whereas, the Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS) Compact is a partnership of OKCPS, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, the OKCPS Foundation, the United Way of Central Oklahoma, and the City of Oklahoma City to support improvements identified by the District; and,

Whereas, EmbraceOKC, modeled after ReadOKC, is a collaborative Compact initiative with a focus on mental health and wellness; and,

Whereas, EmbraceOKC has brought our entire community together to embrace mental health as preventable and treatable, to protect children’s mental health for life, to achieve maximum social and emotional wellbeing for children and their families; and to hold the school and community as a sanctuary of safety and support; and,

Whereas, the District worked with the Oklahoma State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to administer the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment (OPNA) survey, paid for by our Compact partners, to more than 7,000 OKCPS students in 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grades; and

Whereas, those OPNA survey results helped identify patterns, risks, and behaviors that can drive prevention and support services and provided the data needed to create a comprehensive, District-wide mental health action plan to address some of the challenges that OKCPS students and families experience.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Oklahoma City Public Schools Board of Education extends its sincere gratitude to the aforementioned partners of the EmbraceOKC initiative, and considers this a budget priority for the District both now and in the future, and looks forward to the positive outcomes it will undoubtedly yield for the OKCPS students, families, staff and community members.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2020.

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Paula Lewis, Board Chairperson  Carrie Jacobs, Vice Chairperson & District 3 Board Member

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Charles Henry, District 1 Board Member  Rebecca-Budd, District 2 Board Member

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Mark Mann, District 4 Board Member  Ruth Veales, District 5 Board Member

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Gloria Torres, District 6 Board Member  Meg McElhaney, District 7 Board Member