

RESOLUTION 2017-80
INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR WARD AND ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF OHIO AND THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REVISE THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO ONE WHICH ACCURATELY MEASURES HOW WELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE FULFILLING THEIR PRIMARY ROLE OF DEVELOPING PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS

WHEREAS, the Ohio Constitution (Article VI, §2) requires the State of Ohio to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools; and

WHEREAS, Ohio law requires the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to devise and implement a system whereby the efforts of school districts to teach children across the State can be assessed; and

WHEREAS, education and accountability have a greater scope and depth than can be measured by test scores; and

WHEREAS, the current accountability system is too narrow and does not reflect important and essential student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the single score measurement is an invalid assessment presented under the false pretense of accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS, the ODE has instituted a system of testing and metrics which resulted in fewer than 4% of traditional Public Schools earning A's for how their students scored on the 26 State tests, and more than 80% earned F's in that category; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Education has changed the assessment methodology four times in the past four years and such lack of continuity undermines teacher efforts to teach students how to actually take the tests; and

WHEREAS, an accountability system that falsely labels and then punishes public school districts in the belief that such will improve student learning is invalid; and

WHEREAS, It is anticipated the ODE will change the assessment process yet again and revise the standards yet again; and

WHEREAS, the financial and other resources dedicated to preparing for, administering and then grading tests is beyond significant for a process producing data that is not contextualized to our district or our students, does not provide our school district clear direction and does not provide our community members a clear assessment of how their schools are actually teaching children; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and this Council have watched as our Board, Administration, Teachers and other staff, charged with the responsibility of preparing our District's students for life, have had those diligent efforts sidelined by preparing students to take tests; and

WHEREAS, the ODE will soon begin a process of strategic planning which makes it critical that the review of how assessment is performed and the engagement of the public and professionals in the process of review is done immediately so that there is sound input for the ODE to incorporate in its strategic planning. Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYNDHURST, CUYOHOGA COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO THAT

SECTION 1. This Council and Mayor, on behalf of the residents of the City of Lyndhurst, request the State of Ohio to revise the existing system of accountability to one which accurately measures how well public schools are fulfilling their primary role of developing productive citizens.

SECTION 2. This Council and Mayor, request the Ohio Department of Education to formulate a process that meaningfully involves parents, school board members, civic leader, school administrators and other school patrons to develop an accountability system which will

truly measure how well public schools are fulfilling their primary role of developing productive citizens as well as a grading system which accurately represents those efforts to the public.

SECTION 3. This Council and Mayor request both the State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Education to report on said revisions prior to implementation.

SECTION 4. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to serve a certified copy of this resolution upon: Governor John Kasich, Ohio State Senator Peggy Lehner, Ohio State Representative Andrew Brenner, ODE Superintendent Paolo DeMaria, Ohio Department of Education Board President Tess Elshoff, Vice President Nancy P. Hollister and Board Member Meryl Johnson, South Euclid-Lyndhurst School Superintendent Linda Reid and members of the SEL Board of Education.

SECTION 5. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution have been taken at open meetings of this Council; and that deliberations of this Council and of its committees, resulting in such formal action, took place in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all statutory requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 6. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, welfare and safety of the City of Lyndhurst, its residents and especially its children. Therefore this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage by the affirmative vote of not less than five (5) members elected to Council and signature by the Mayor, or otherwise at the earliest time allowed by law.

PASSED: November 6, 2017

MAYOR

VICE MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of Council

I, the undersigned Clerk of Council of the City of Lyndhurst, hereby certify that there is no newspaper published or having an office of publication in said City, and that I published the foregoing Ordinance by advertising the same by title on one day in each of two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in said City, on November 16, 2017 and November 23, 2017.

Clerk of Council

First Reading: November 6, 2017

Second Reading: Suspended

Third Reading: Suspended