

Resolution



October 9, 2017

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE ATLANTA BOARD OF EDUCATION TO UPHOLD INCLUSIVE PRACTICES IN THE DISTRICT'S COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION PROCESS (FINAL ADOPTION)

WHEREAS, The Atlanta Board of Education (ABOE) understands that a commitment to diversity, in every form, is a bedrock value of this public school district and the entire Atlanta community; **and,**

WHEREAS, the city of Atlanta and its residents hold an important historical role in the global fight for social justice, human rights and civil rights; **and,**

WHEREAS, equity is a core value held by this Board and this District; **and,**

WHEREAS, the core mission of Atlanta Public Schools is to ensure that with a caring culture of trust and collaboration, every student will graduate ready for college and career; **and,**

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill its core mission, the Atlanta Public Schools must engage in business transactions with vendors, suppliers and contractors across a range of industries; **and,**

WHEREAS, the Board sought external support in determining whether any disparity exists within the district's procurement practices and the participation and availability of Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprises; **and,**

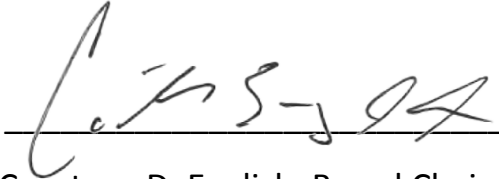
WHEREAS, Keen Independent Research made its expertise available to the Board in order to conduct a study of district procurement practices and M/WBE participation and identified that disparities exist; **Now, therefore, be it**

RESOLVED, That the Atlanta Board of Education publicly declares its unwavering pledge to conducting district business in a manner that upholds its commitment to inclusive practices in the district's competitive solicitation process; **and, be it further**

RESOLVED, That after thorough review of the findings of the disparity study, the BOE will propose changes to Policy DJEA - Purchasing Authority that will make clear the district's goal of awarding procurement opportunities with the goal of inclusivity; **and, be it further**

RESOLVED, That the ABOE supports the Superintendent and district Administration in drafting and implementing Administrative Regulations that implement Policy DJEA - Purchasing Authority and make concrete the Board's commitment to enhancing opportunities for M/WBE vendor participation; **and, be it further**

RESOLVED, That the ABOE directs the Superintendent and district Administration to proactively encourage M/WBE vendor participation in order to eliminate any disparities that exist within our competitive solicitation process and M/WBE participation, and annually report to the ABOE on the progress of this work.


Courtney D. English, Board Chair

Attest



Pierre Gaither

Interim Board Executive Administrator