

RESOLUTION NO. 116-10

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF THE *ROBLES- WONG V. CALIFORNIA* AND THE *CAMPAIGN FOR QUALITY EDUCATION V. CALIFORNIA* LITIGATION CHALLENGING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOL FINANCE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, education is a fundamental right of every child in California; and

WHEREAS, California's constitution requires a public school system that prepares students to become informed citizens and productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, California has set clear requirements for what schools are expected to teach and what students are expected to learn; and

WHEREAS, the State has an obligation to maintain and support a school finance system that provides districts and county offices of education with the resources necessary to meet these requirements; and

WHEREAS, the State's school finance system prevents West Contra Costa Unified School District from providing all of the education programs and services our students need to become proficient in the State's academic standards and to obtain a well-rounded education; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the broken school finance system, students are being denied the opportunity to master the required education program; and

WHEREAS, severe budget cuts over the last several years have made a dire situation worse by forcing districts to increase class size, lay off teachers, eliminate many programs necessary to support student learning and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the lawsuit, *Robles-Wong v. California*, filed on May 20, 2010 in Alameda county by the California School Boards Association, the California State PTA, the Association of California School Administrators, several local school districts and individual students, seeks to remedy the broken school finance system by (1) declaring it unconstitutional and (2) requiring State lawmakers to uphold their constitutional duty to design and implement a school finance system that provides all students equal access to the required education program; and

WHEREAS, filing this lawsuit was a last resort—the Governor and lawmakers have known for some time that the current school finance system is harming students, schools and districts, and they have done little to nothing to remedy the crisis; and

WHEREAS, another lawsuit, *Campaign for Quality Education (CQE) v. California*, filed on July 12, 2010 in Alameda County by the Campaign for Quality Education, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, Californians for

Justice, San Francisco Organizing Project and several individual students and parents, seeks similar remedies to the *Robles-Wong* lawsuit, particularly for students in the neediest schools and also allows grassroots community members and their constituents—primarily low-income parents and students—an independent voice so that they will have a direct say in their children’s future; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond on November 3, 2009 adopted a resolution adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as guiding principles and declaring Richmond to be a Human Rights City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond on October 20, 2009 adopted a resolution affirming its support for the teachers and students of West Contra Costa Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond believes that the well-being of our community is dependent on the quality of our schools and that the current deficiencies in the State’s school finance system have a negative impact on the lives of all Richmond residents, both children and adults; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond believes it is imperative to provide a sound, stable and sufficient school finance system to ensure equal educational opportunities and a decent quality of life for all Richmond residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Richmond strongly supports both the *Robles-Wong v. California* and the *Campaign for Quality Education (CQE) v. California* litigation challenging the State’s school finance system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond encourages the California Mayors Education Roundtable to adopt a resolution in support of both *Robles-Wong v. California* and *Campaign for Quality Education (CQE) v. California*.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council hereby directs the City Manager to send copies of this resolution to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Senator Loni Hancock, State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, Assemblymember Nancy Skinner and the California Mayors Education Roundtable.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed, approved and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond, California, at a joint meeting of said City Council held on October 5, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Lopez, Rogers, Viramontes,
Vice Mayor Ritterman and Mayor McLaughlin

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES
Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 116-10, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a joint meeting held on October 5, 2010.