

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Eric C. Davis, Chairman

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION Catherine Truitt, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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North Carolina State Board of Education

Resolution Honoring the Second Ward High School and the Second Ward High School National Alumni Foundation, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Second Ward High School opened in September 1923 as the first Black high school in Charlotte, North Carolina, making 2023 the 100th anniversary of the school's opening; and

WHEREAS, the school's teachers and administrators, understanding the school's unique opportunity for Black children, created a rigorous and disciplined education environment that was also a place of caring and nurturing that developed pride in the school, its communities, and Black culture; and

WHEREAS, teachers and administrators were never deterred by limited resources for books, materials, and personal needs and reached often and unselfishly into their own pockets to ensure that students' and families' needs – both academic and personal – were met; and

WHEREAS, students knew that Second Ward High School's first priority was students and inculcating into them the pride and strength that comes from learning and the appreciation of strong Black communities and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Second Ward High School students, teachers, administrators, and the community were pridefully intertwined, all with high expectations for the students and their school and the promise of great potential unleashed into their futures; and

WHEREAS, school administrators understood that future success for Black students depended in great part on the depth and success of their education at the school and worked throughout the school's history with resilience and resolve to expand life-changing course offerings and evening access to education for community members; and

WHEREAS, facility and program expansion of Second Ward High School even led to evening offerings for soldiers returning from World War II for skills and job training – a program so successful that it became Carver College; and

WHEREAS, Second Ward's appropriately chosen Tiger mascot represented the power, courage, protection, and energy that a school and education could unleash among students and the community; and

WHEREAS, the school's student newspaper, the *Second Ward Herald*, reported not only on student sports and activities but also reported powerful examples of current and former Second Ward High School student success to bolster pride in achievement made possible by the school; and

WHEREAS, Second Ward High School teachers and administrators earned the admiration of parents and community members for their encouragement and personal sacrifices for their students through genuine caring, teaching, mentoring, role modeling, and supportive discipline; and

WHEREAS, the love and respect for Second Ward High School and those who led and taught there demonstrate the power of a place of learning, high expectations, and a sense of prideful belonging among the beautiful Black community; and

WHEREAS, demolition of the beloved Second Ward High School in 1970 and closure in 1969 by no means ended the school's reach and impact in the community, nor in the communities where its alumni reside; and

WHEREAS, appreciative, dedicated alumni of Second Ward High School understood the long-term positive impact of a short-lived high school and created the Second Ward High School National Alumni Foundation, Inc., whose mission it is to create an enduring legacy of all things that were and continue to be good about the school – its impact on individuals and its service to and appreciation for the communities from which they drew;

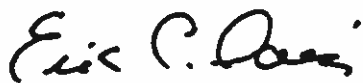
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT, the North Carolina State Board of Education presents this resolution as a tribute in honor of the Second Ward High School for its place in history as the first Black high school in Charlotte, North Carolina, but perhaps more importantly for its constructive impact on its students, their families, and the community and for its resolve for creating a place of pride that honored the very best of Black culture and its positive impact on the education experience; and

THAT, the North Carolina State Board of Education presents this resolution also to honor and pay tribute to the Second Ward High School National Alumni Foundation, Inc. for its recognition of the value – both short term and long-term – of the power of a school that represents and serves its community, giving it lifelong beyond its physical structure; and

THAT, the North Carolina State Board of Education is grateful for efforts to ensure that this place of pride that protected and preserved Black culture and instilled a love of learning will not be forgotten and will live forever in the hearts and minds touched by the school's great good works; and

THAT, the North Carolina State Board of Education directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enter this Resolution into the record this fourth day of May, 2023.



Eric C. Davis, Chairman
North Carolina State Board of Education



Catherine Truitt, Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction