

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 36

EFFECTIVE January 30, 2017

WHEREAS, A strong Providence public school system is a critical factor in improving the lives of young people in our capital city; and

WHEREAS, A 2015 survey of pertinent academic research, conducted by Penn State University, supports the importance of the condition of school facilities to improve student outcomes, including factors of acoustics and noise, air quality, lighting, proper temperature and control of temperature, classroom space, and 21st century learning models; and

WHEREAS, According to the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's 2013 School House Assessment, the average public school building in RI is 60 years old, and a majority of school buildings statewide are between 50 and 100 years old; and

WHEREAS, Beyond age, past failures to properly maintain public school buildings has left many classrooms in a state of disrepair and students in unsafe and unhealthy environments; and

WHEREAS, The same report estimated that about one fifth of RI's public school buildings are in need of "moderate to major renovations" or "replacement," with an estimated cost of the repairs needed at those schools of over \$830 million; and

WHEREAS, On average, Providence and RI's other urban school districts were found to have greater facilities and repair needs than schools outside of the urban core and serve a larger number of students, making proper funding of school infrastructure all the more necessary; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Resources Network report dated April 25, 2016, Providence public schools face over \$600M in deferred maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, Also according to the National Resources Network report, Providence public schools require a targeted capital investment program of more than \$20M per year beyond their deferred maintenance needs; and

WHEREAS, According to the aforementioned Penn State survey of research, the benefits of improving school facilities surpass the fiscal costs, and policymakers "should focus greater attention on the impacts of facilities and adopt a long-term cost-benefit perspective on efforts to improve school facilities"; and

WHEREAS, Providing a proper public education and adequate facilities in which to learn is an integral part of governance and a moral responsibility for state and local elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, repairing and improving school facilities is an investment in both the next generation of Rhode Islanders and in Rhode Island's economic future, showing children that their education and well-being are priorities and sending the message to businesses that Rhode Island is building a more prosperous future; and

WHEREAS, As part of the "Fair Shot Agenda," a group of State representatives and senators are proposing legislation securing investments for educational facilities remediating health and safety concerns, making schools more energy efficient, and updating facilities so students have the tools they need to develop 21st Century skills; and

WHEREAS, Such investments are welcomed and necessary in order to provide the young people of Rhode Island with the high quality education they deserve; and

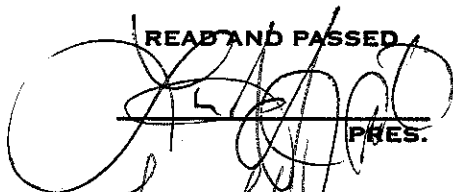

WHEREAS, State and local leaders have a moral obligation to properly repair, maintain, and update educational facilities so students have safe and healthy environments in which to learn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does urge the Governor, the members of the General Assembly, the Mayor, the Providence School Board, and RIDE to collaborate and develop a concrete plan to support the necessary improvements and repairs to public school building in Providence and throughout Rhode Island.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, this resolution sent to the Governor, the Mayor, the members of the Providence School Board, the members of the RI Board of Education, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the entire Providence delegation in the General Assembly.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 19 2017

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Lori L. Hagen
City Clerk