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VISION 20/20 RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, public education plays a defining role in ensuring equal opportunity for the children in Illinois and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective duty to ensure that every student, no matter his or her demographic or geographic identity, has equal access to a quality education; and

WHEREAS, though we reject the notion that public education is currently failing, we believe that strides need to be made to continually improve our public education system; and

WHEREAS, there have been four areas of prioritization identified as integral in improving our public schools: Shared Accountability, 21st Century Learning, Highly Effective Educators, and Equitable and Adequate Funding; and

WHEREAS, Shared Accountability should address: providing a greater role in State education governance by practicing educators, implementing a differentiated accountability system recognizing the diversity of each individual school district, and abating and restructuring unfunded mandates on local school districts; and

WHEREAS, 21st Century Learning should address: developing the "whole child" educationally instead of only focusing on the assessment of all students in a narrow scope of test scores in math and science, preserving instructional time for the best use of teacher/student interaction, investing in Early Childhood Education, linking students to college and careers, and expanding equity in technology access; and

WHEREAS, Highly Effective Educators should address: recruiting and retaining high-impact educators, and providing relevant professional development for teachers and administrators; and

WHEREAS, Equitable and Adequate Funding should address: providing funding to school districts based on the local need, stabilizing State budgets, generally, and education funding specifically, and enhancing school district flexibility to increase financial efficiency; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that any education improvement proposal for comprehensive change must be developed and supported by not only the education community, but in collaboration with parents, communities, businesses, and others whose priorities reflect the best interests of the students; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Prairieview-Ogden Board of Education joins with the Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Principals' Association, Illinois Association of School Business Officials, Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents, and the Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity in supporting the Vision 20/20 education improvement proposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prairieview-Ogden Board of Education urges the Illinois General Assembly to approve the necessary legislative changes to implement the recommendations under the four pillars of education improvement as contained in the Vision 20/20 document.