

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 85**  
**OPPOSING PROPOSED SCHOOL CLOSINGS BY THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, on December 1, 2020 the Superintendent for the St. Louis Public Schools submitted to the Elected Board of Education his recommendation for consolidation and closure of eleven (11) public schools, said plan to be retroactively effective for the 2020-2021 school session which included four high schools, one middle school, and six elementary schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Louis Board of Education set a very short timeline of seven (7) days from December 1, 2020 until December 7, 2020 for Community and Staff feedback on the plan for school consolidation and closures; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary sponsors of this Resolution is unsure how the Community was notified by the St. Louis Board of Education as to ways they could provide Community input regarding the closure and consolidation plan of eleven (11) schools; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 8, the St. Louis Board of Education scheduled a single two-and-a-half-hour virtual Town Hall meeting for the entire City of St. Louis on the recommended plan to consolidate or close eleven (11) St. Louis Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Louis Board of Education has scheduled a meeting to vote on the School Consolidation and Closures Plan for December 15, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.; and

**WHEREAS**, of the ten (10) schools submitted for closure, seven (7) are located in North St. Louis. Three (3) schools are located in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward of the City which encompasses the historic Ville and Greater Ville Neighborhoods. The three (3) schools are Farragut and Hickey grade school, and the historic Sumner High School and four (4) more schools located in other parts of North St. Louis, Clay, Dunbar, Ford grade schools and Northwest Law School; and

**WHEREAS**, North St. Louis neighborhoods whose boundaries go as far north-west as just west of Coal Bank Road and Riverview Drive has been decimated in the last 20 years by school closings in the late 1990's and early 2000's. During this time North St. Louis Neighborhoods had six high schools located in various North St. Louis neighborhoods namely Beaumont, Central, Northwest, Sumner, Vashon, and Sodan High Schools. Five have been closed or consolidated leaving Vashon and Sumner as the only high schools in North St. Louis Neighborhoods. If Sumner High School is closed then most of North St. Louis Students will not have access to a High School anywhere in or near their community and additionally if Farragut and Hickey grade schools are closed, the 4th Ward will be left without a grade school; and

**WHEREAS**, most alarming to the sponsors are the number of grade schools and middle schools that have been closed in neighborhoods through-out North St. Louis including seven (7) schools in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward, Cote Brillante, Marshall and Marshall Branch, Turner and Turner Branch, and Simmons Grade Schools, and Williams Middle School, others schools closed in North St. Louis Neighborhoods include but are not limited to Mark Twain, Scullin, Cupples, Kings Tri-A, Walnut Park, Walbridge, Baden, Cook, Hempstead, Mitchell, Emerson, Laclede, Langston, Gundlach, Lowell, Euclid Branch, and Stowe Middle; and

**WHEREAS**, the closing of public schools not only disrupts and often has a negative impact upon the education of the students attending those schools that are closed but also often devastates the surrounding community making it impossible to attract proper development or carry out current development plans and leaving big

empty properties that become a haven for criminal and nuisance behavior and buildings that are not properly maintained by the School Board; and

**WHEREAS**, currently there are 16 charter schools in 34 buildings in the City of St. Louis and to add insult to injury for years St. Louis City charter schools which are public schools that are not required to follow some rules and regulations that apply to traditional public school districts but are paid from funds that would be given to the St. Louis City Schools, were forbidden from locating in closed St. Louis Public Schools, leaving the Charter Schools to pour funds into other buildings while empty closed St. Louis Public Schools crumble and devastate communities. Said charter schools are still as of the date of this Resolution not mandated but should be mandated to open any new charter schools in empty closed St. Louis City Public School Buildings so that at least when they close in a few years which many of them have done, they would help maintain the vacant empty buildings owned by the St. Louis Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has published the Consolidation Criteria Scoring Matrix they maintain was used to make decisions about which schools to close or consolidate and some have asserted that there were mistakes in the criteria and scoring including the year some schools were built and the impact on neighborhood. These people assert that said mistakes negatively affect the closing and/or consolidation recommendations.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the sponsors of this resolution are opposed to the proposed plan in its present form and request that the members of the St. Louis Public Schools change the timeline for taking a vote on the Superintendent's recommendations to allow for: 1. additional substantive review of the plan; 2. a longer commentary time for the public regarding the current proposed plan; 3. a time for the Board members and the Superintendent of Schools to meet with local, state and elected officials to answer questions and listen to suggestions regarding the proposed plan; and 4. a time to incorporate community and political recommendations and input, in any such plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of this Honorable Board of Aldermen be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution to be immediately sent to the members of the St. Louis Board Education and the Superintendent.

**Introduced on this 11th day of December 2020 by**  
**The Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1st Ward**  
**The Honorable Dwinderlin Evans, Alderwoman 4<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Vicky Grass, Alderman 12<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Brandon Bosley, Alderman 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Bret Narayan, Alderman 24<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of December, 2020 as attested by:**

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**Terry Kennedy**  
**Clerk, Board of Aldermen**

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**Lewis E. Reed**  
**President, Board of Aldermen**