

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE CITY OF SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT FOR A RECOVERY SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS IN REGION 2 WHO ARE ADDICTED TO SUBSTANCES**

**WHEREAS**, the opioid epidemic coupled with mental health issues and the use of alcohol and other drugs has adversely affected students and the educational environment for students receiving educational services in Region 2; and

**WHEREAS**, public schools in Region 2 offer no recovery school for students who have completed a residential and/or formal recovery program, and lack of a recovery school impacts the timely return for those students to a public school educational environment; and

**WHEREAS**, recent overdoses, deaths, school suspensions, and other indicators of drug and alcohol use are increasing among our youth, it is incumbent on our schools to provide support for those students with substance use disorder, through a recovery school in Region 2; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of Recovery Schools (ARS) defines a recovery high school as a secondary school designed specifically for students in recovery from substance use disorder or dependency. Recovery schools all share common goals: (1) to educate all students in recovery from substance use disorder in a safe and nurturing environment; (2) to ensure all student in a recovery high school receive an academic curriculum which meets state standards and leads to attainment of a school diploma; (3) to provide supports to include counseling and public access to resources that strengthens students' social emotional health while ensuring recovery and possible reintegration into the traditional high school; and (4) to engage and educate families in a partnership to support their student in the recovery program and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Donald E. Robertson Jr., School Superintendent for Virginia Beach Public Schools, and the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach began the exploration, planning and establishment of a year-round school to be located within one of five initial participating school divisions in Region 2: Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Beach Public Schools successfully lobbied the Virginia General Assembly for a recovery school in Region 2 and was awarded a \$500,000 in the state budget as start-up funds for the recovery school that will be received by Virginia Beach Public Schools on or before July 1, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Beach Public Schools will serve as the fiscal agent and the recovery school will be located in the City of Chesapeake; and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that local school boards in Region 2 that express an interest in participating in a recovery school will receive a finished plan prior to January 2025 to be used for budgeting and planning purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the recovery school will open in the 2025-2026 school year.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the School Board for the City of Suffolk, Virginia expresses its support for a recovery school in Region 2; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the school superintendent is hereby directed to work with Region 2 superintendents in the planning and implementation of a recovery school for Region 2.

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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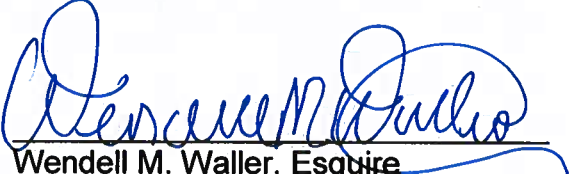
Chair

Attest:

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Clerk

Approved as to both form and content:

  
Wendell M. Waller, Esquire  
School Board Attorney