Whereas, the DPS Board recognizes the extraordinary challenges COVID-19 creates for schools and communities; and

Whereas, all schools and communities need to focus on return planning and implementation under the DPS Crisis Priorities for the 2020-2021 school year; and

Whereas, our typical review academic processes are more limited due to the lack of state assessment data and the SPF; and

Whereas, DPS has long embraced the Innovation schools to support those closest to students - school leaders, teachers, and community members - making important decisions about programming, policy and practice in their school and on behalf of their students; and

Whereas, the DPS Board has heard from multiple stakeholders and recognizes there are real and meaningful challenges in the implementation of innovation status policy and practice and that there is a need to take a step back in order to reflect, research, listen, cooperate and address these issues; and

Whereas, in order to allow schools and communities time to focus on the return to school and the crisis priorities, as well as to engage in a reflection process, be it resolved:

The DPS Board has reviewed and extends innovation plans for one year at the following schools: Beach Court, Centennial, Center for Talent Development at Greenlee, Collegiate Prep Academy, Creativity Community Challenge (C3), Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design, Grant Beacon Middle School, John H. Amesse Elementary, Kepner Beacon Middle School, Legacy Options High School, McAuliffe International School, McGlone Academy, Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment, Northfield High School, Swigert International, West Early College, West Leadership Academy, and Willow Elementary; and

Be it further resolved, the DPS Board has reviewed and extends the innovation zone plan for one year for the following zones: Northeast Denver Innovation Zone and Beacon Innovation Zone; and
Be it further resolved, the DPS Board will not review or approve applications for new innovation status or Innovation Zone expansion through May, 2021; and

Be it further resolved, the DPS Board further directs the District to engage in a reflection process related to innovation status, including the following steps:

1. Defining key questions with stakeholders including Innovation Council, DCTA, school leaders, teachers, CSCs (families), community representatives, DPS Board and central office staff.
2. Using existing personnel and resources, engage in research, including qualitative and quantitative, to answer key questions and produce a document that is publicly available.
3. Sharing back key questions and research with the DPS Board and community, including lifting up key tension points or challenges.
4. Partnering with stakeholder groups to develop ideas for addressing key tension points or challenges, including potential changes to policy or practice.

Be it further resolved that Director Laurvick, Board Treasurer Cobián and Vice President Bacon will serve in an ongoing way as part of the Board Innovation Working Group to provide ongoing support, sponsorship and oversight of this process along the way described above.

Be it further resolved that the Board anticipates this process may result in changes to District practice and/or Board Policy ADE (“Innovation in Education”), in May, 2021.

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Carrie Olson, Ph.D., President    Tay Anderson, Secretary