A Resolution Supporting Governor Tom Wolf’s Proposal to Expand the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to Remediate Contaminants in Schools

WHEREAS: Governor Tom Wolf proposed a $1 billion expansion of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) to remediate toxic contaminants in schools and childcare centers in communities across the Commonwealth in his February 4th 2020-2021 Budget Address; and

WHEREAS: The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) is a Commonwealth grant program that reimburses grantees for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civil, recreational, and historic improvement projects; and

WHEREAS: Testing has shown children within Pennsylvania have suffered physical and developmental deficits due to lead, asbestos, and other contaminants in our schools affecting their health; and

WHEREAS: Children within Pennsylvania have suffered educational delays due to lead, asbestos, and other contaminants in our schools causing cancellations and closing of school buildings, forcing certain lesson plans to be pushed back or eliminated altogether; and

WHEREAS: The refusal to take immediate action on contaminants in schools will only further harm our children’s health in the Commonwealth, causing them life-long, detrimental health problems due of the pervasive exposure of toxins; and

WHEREAS: The continued closing of schools, use of temporary buildings, and cancellations of school days due to toxic contaminants will set our children back in their education, hindering their development; and

WHEREAS: The drawdown of an additional $1 billion in funds would allow school districts across the Commonwealth to undertake serious and meaningful steps towards lead, asbestos, and other contaminant remediation in our school buildings to protect our children’s health and education.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED: that the Allentown City School District supports the Governor’s proposal to expand RACP, which will provide the reimbursement of essential funding to address over $5 million dollars of identified hazardous materials in our schools and protect the health, wellbeing, and education of our children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Allentown City School District will engage with our State Representatives in support of the Governor’s proposal to ensure the safety, health, and educational advancement of our children and students.

Adopted this ______________________ day of _____________________, 2020.

Signed,

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   School Board President               Board Secretary