

RESOLUTION 2016 - ____
SUPPORT OF EDUCATION REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, the Citizens of Pinellas County voted in 2004 to allow the School Board to levy up to one half mill for “necessary operating expenses including funds to recruit and retain teachers; preserve reading programs and music and art classes; and provide up-to-date textbooks and technology, with oversight of these expenditures by an independent citizens financial oversight committee”; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens of Pinellas voted again in 2008 and 2012 to continue to levy one half mill for the same purpose with the same independent oversight; and

WHEREAS, these funds have allowed Pinellas County teachers to become among the best compensated in the state and provides them with additional training opportunities; and

WHEREAS, before the referendum district technology resources were limited to maintenance but now our libraries have Kindles, e-readers and each school receives \$2,000 for new library books each year, computer programs which allow all students to study the same curriculum at each student’s reading level, and there is a goal of 100% Smart Boards in elementary classrooms by August 2017; and

WHEREAS, students reading below grade level receive reading remediation every day, additional support and training for college readiness is offered in 35 middle and high schools, and referendum funds are helping supply materials and training for summer bridge, and

WHEREAS, programs in the visual and performing arts were greatly expanded with referendum funds providing art supplies, digital art classes, field trips, band uniforms, instrument rental fee waivers, as well as greatly expanded strings and guitar programs, and

WHEREAS, the Citizen Oversight Committee has met quarterly to review the expenditures and produce yearly reports showing the funding has gone into Pinellas County Classrooms in the ways the voters intended, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of every Pinellas citizen to maintain a high quality program for children:

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE

_____ ,

1. That we commend the School District for expending the funds in a way consistent with the desires of the voters.
2. That we express our gratitude to the Voters of Pinellas County that they have been able to enrich the lives of our teachers and children.
3. That we endorse the continuation of the half mill as way for local dollars to be spent on local needs that provide economic growth to our local community.
4. That we recommend that all Pinellas voters give particular attention to the needs of their schools and vote to support them on November 8th.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Chair

Vice Chair

Upon approval of this resolution, a copy shall be sent to Citizens for Pinellas Schools, PO Box 15525, Clearwater, FL 33766 or emailed to CitizensForPinellasSchools@gmail.com