

# WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

February 13, 2019

Agenda Item #13

## **FULL AND FAIR FUNDING OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS RESOLUTION**

COUNCIL FILE #19-0002-S12

City Council member Joe Buscaino has submitted the above-referenced resolution calling for Full and Fair Funding of our public schools. Council Members Mike Bonin and Marqueece Harris-Dawson seconded it. Among others, the California School Boards Association has gained similar adoption by the 31<sup>st</sup> District PTA, the California State Democratic Party, and most school districts in the State. The resolution was referred to the Rules, Elections and Inter-Governmental Relations Committee chaired by Council President Herb Wesson. That body meets next on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month (2/15/19) at 9am. Assuming it passes out of there, it will then go back to the full body for adoption. this is the link to the City Clerk's tracking system: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=19-0002-S12>

MOTION:

THE WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ADOPTS THE FULL AND FAIR FUNDING RESOLUTION (COUNCIL FILE #19-0002-S12) AND URGES THE ENTIRE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT SAME:

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, California has the fifth largest economy in the world, and the largest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, despite California's leadership in the global economy, the state falls in the nation's bottom quintile on nearly every measure of public K-12 school funding and school staffing; and

WHEREAS, California ranks 45th nationally in the percentage of taxable income spent on education, 41st in per-pupil funding, 45th in pupil-teacher ratios and 48th in pupil-staff ratios; and

WHEREAS, K-12 school funding has not substantially increased, adjusting for inflation, for more than a decade; and WHEREAS, under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), state funding for K-12 schools has only this recently returned to levels predating the Great Recession of 2007; and

WHEREAS, the modest revenue increases since the implementation of LCFF have been eroded by rapidly increasing costs for health care, pensions, transportation and utilities; and

WHEREAS, California funds schools at roughly \$1,961 per student less than the national average, which translates to approximately \$3,462 per student when adjusted for California being a high-cost state; and WHEREAS, California trails the average of the top 10 states by almost \$7,000 in per-pupil funding; and

WHEREAS, to close opportunity and achievement gaps and create a public school system that offers consistently high levels of education, the State must provide appropriate resources to meet student need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-20 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for any legislative or administrative action that would fund California public schools at the national average or higher by the year 2020, and at a level that is equal to or above the average of the top 10 states nationally by 2025 and to maintain, at a minimum, this level of funding until otherwise decreed.