A RESOLUTION OF THE LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT 87, THE "FAIR INCOME TAX ACT," AND PROPOSITION NN AND IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 136.

WHEREAS, public education is the bedrock of our democracy, fundamental to individual opportunity, the foundation of thriving communities, and essential to Colorado's long-term economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, sustained and adequate investment in Colorado's public schools is critical to maintaining the state's economic competitiveness and has been shown to yield strong returns, including higher graduation rates, increased lifetime earnings, and reduced long-term public costs; and

WHEREAS, educators and support staff across Lake County and the State of Colorado make invaluable contributions to their students and communities, often dedicating personal time and resources; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that higher teacher compensation is directly associated with improved student academic outcomes, and yet Colorado has the highest teacher wage penalty in the nation, with public school teachers earning approximately 36% to 38.5% less than college graduates who chose other careers; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's school funding has not kept pace with modern educational demands, with inflation-adjusted per-pupil funding near 1989 levels, significant cumulative reductions through the Budget Stabilization Factor, and increasing cost pressures related to staffing, health care, technology, and student needs; and

WHEREAS, recent state-commissioned adequacy studies by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA) found that Colorado's school funding is inequitable and insufficient, estimating a need for approximately $3.5 - 4.1Billion in additional annual resources to ensure all students meet standards and requirements; and

WHEREAS, sustainable and adequate school funding is further threatened by fiscal constraints, economic conditions, pressures on the State Education Fund, and uncertainty in federal funding for education and related services; and

WHEREAS, Colorado voters have the opportunity to enact two ballot measures in November – Amendment 87, the "Income Tax Fairness Act," and Proposition NN – that could repair and reverse Colorado's decades-long chronic underfunding of public schools; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 87 would provide an immediate injection of at least $700 million for K-12 public schools and Proposition NN would allow public schools to benefit in the long-term from the growth in Colorado's economy;

WHEREAS, Amendment 87 is projected to provide **meaningful new annual funding to Lake County School District, estimated at approximately $698,000**; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 87 would establish a more equitable graduated income tax system that reduces taxes for approximately 97% of Coloradans asking the highest-income 2–3% of earners to contribute more through a graduated income tax system; and

WHEREAS, Proposition NN would raise Colorado's existing spending limit to allow our state to use the money it already collects for K-12 schools, without raising taxes for anyone; and

WHEREAS, the new investments made possible by these measures would support improved teacher compensation, smaller class sizes, expanded student support services and more equitable educational and career-preparatory opportunities for all Colorado students; and

WHEREAS, both measures require annual state audits to ensure that the dollars are used in accordance with the voters' intent; and

WHEREAS, together Proposition NN and Amendment 87 provide Colorado voters with an unprecedented and historic opportunity to **make it possible for today's elementary students to graduate from fully funded high schools;** and

WHEREAS, enactment of Proposition 136 – which would cap Colorado's income tax rate at 4.4% – would undermine the benefits that Lake County students would receive from passage of Amendment 87;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Lake County School District formally endorses Amendment 87, the "Protect Colorado's Future" measure and Proposition NN; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board formally OPPOSES Proposition 136; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages community members to learn about and consider the benefits of Amendment 87 and Proposition NN; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to share this resolution with stakeholders and the broader community to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable and adequate funding for public education.

ADOPTED this 15th day of October, 2026.

Secretary, Melissa Earley

President, Miriam Lozano