

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER,
STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

**School Redesign and Grade Reconfiguration
Centennial ECE-8 School**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is committed to improving the quality and effectiveness of each of the Denver Public Schools;

WHEREAS, the Denver Public Schools have shown considerable progress every year since the adoption of the Denver Plan in 2005, and this year our students achieved gains in proficiency in the four core subjects that outpaced state averages;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education acknowledges the tremendous dedication and hard work of our students, teachers, school leaders, staff, parents, and community members, who have put the Denver Public Schools on this path of academic improvement and achievement;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that it must continue to strengthen its schools and increase opportunities so that every student can attend a high-performing school;

WHEREAS, Centennial ECE-8 School (“Centennial”) has demonstrated persistently low performance over the past 5 years, never earning more than 40% of available points for overall school performance on the School Performance Framework (“SPF”), and earning only 31% of available points on the 2012 SPF, leading to the lowest possible rating on the framework;

WHEREAS, Centennial’s consistent underperformance relative to similar schools has been dramatic, as evidenced by Centennial’s 2012 TCAP proficient or advanced data, in which Centennial students’ rates of proficiency trailed students at similar schools by 14% in reading, 10% in writing and 14% in math;

WHEREAS, enrollment at Centennial has declined by 10% in the past 3 years, and, in 2012, the percentage of students “choicing out” of the Centennial boundary reached 60%;

WHEREAS, numerous Collaborative School Committee (“CSC”), staff and community meetings occurred in the fall of 2012, as more specifically outlined in the district staff’s recommendation presentation, at which discussions of Centennial’s persistently low performance and a possible grade reconfiguration and educational program change took place;

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2012, after giving reasonable public notice, the Board of Education held a public hearing in which interested parties could comment on the district staff’s recommendation for grade reconfiguration and redesign of Centennial;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that it is in the best interest of Centennial students for a grade reconfiguration to occur in order to foster a greater focus on improving student achievement for students in grades ECE-5 and so that students entering the middle grades will

have access to stronger middle schools in the Northwest Region and elsewhere in the district;
and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that the Centennial redesign, including (1) the full flexibility for the principal to choose her teaching staff, for which the existing staff will be eligible to be hired, and (2) a substantial change to the educational program, is aligned with the Denver Plan and will provide students with opportunities for significantly improved student achievement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Board of Education approves the grade reconfiguration of Centennial from ECE-8 to ECE-5, consistent with the district staff's recommendation. The phase-out plan for grades 6-8 includes: (a) the cessation of 6th grade in 2013-14 school year; (b) a phase-out of 7th and 8th grades.
2. The Board of Education approves the redesign of Centennial for the 2013-14 school year, consistent with the district staff's recommendation, so that the principal of Centennial shall have full flexibility to select all teachers at the school, and existing teaching staff will be eligible to be hired for the teaching positions.
3. District staff shall be authorized to take any reasonable action(s) necessary to facilitate the grade reconfiguration and school redesign.

Mary Seawell, President

Nate Easley, Secretary