RICHMOND CITY SCHOOL BOARD
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INDIGENOUS AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Date XXXX

WHEREAS, the lands occupied by Richmond Public Schools (RPS) have been home to the Monacan and Powhatan Confederacies since before the creation of the United States, whose stewardship, cultures, languages, and traditions continue to enrich our communities today; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples have made enduring contributions to the cultural, environmental, educational, civic, and economic life of our community despite histories of displacement, discrimination, and the suppression of Indigenous sovereignty, languages, and cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging this history is an important step toward truth-telling, reconciliation, and should be paired with tangible actions in education, collaboration, historical preservation, and equitable opportunity; and

WHEREAS, RPS recognizes the value of engaging Indigenous leaders, historians, educators, and community members in shaping recommendations that honor these histories and guide future action; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond should be the epicenter of remembrance, recognition, reconciliation, and respect for Tribal Nations in Virginia and America's indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, RPS' Dreams4RPS Strategic Plan Priority 4 calls on us to tell our story and the story of Richmond, and on January 6, 2026, the Richmond City School Board affirmed its support for indigenous awareness and education by officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day as a school holiday.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Richmond City School Board hereby continues to affirm its commitment to recognizing the histories, cultures, and continuing presence of the Indigenous Peoples whose ancestral homelands include the area now known as Richmond, Virginia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City School Board joins the RVA Indigenous Education & Awareness Commitment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City School Board directs the superintendent to work collaboratively with representatives of affected Indigenous Nations, Tribal governments, Indigenous organizations, historians, and other stakeholders to develop a respectful and historically accurate land acknowledgment for consideration and formal adoption by the Richmond City School Board; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City School Board hereby establishes the Indigenous Histories Task Force that includes representatives from Indigenous Nations and Indigenous organizations, local historians, educators, cultural institutions, community organizations, youth representatives, and members appointed by the Richmond City School Board, with Indigenous representation prioritized throughout its membership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall:

1. Recommend a permanent land acknowledgment for adoption by the Richmond City School Board;
2. Identify existing areas where RPS engages in supporting awareness of Indigenous histories and cultures;
3. Identify opportunities to improve public education regarding Indigenous histories and cultures;
4. Recommend policies, programs, commemorations, and partnerships that recognize the contributions and continuing presence of Indigenous Peoples;
5. Identify opportunities to preserve and interpret Indigenous historical and cultural sites where appropriate;
6. Recommend strategies for collaboration with Tribal governments and Indigenous organizations on matters of mutual interest;
7. Identify opportunities to support Indigenous cultural programming, educational initiatives, public art, historical markers, and community engagement; and
8. Submit a written report containing findings and recommendations to the Richmond City School Board within twelve (12) months of the Task Force's first meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receipt of the Task Force's report, the Richmond City School Board shall review its recommendations and consider appropriate actions, including implementation of recommendations through policies, partnerships, budgetary considerations, educational initiatives, and future resolutions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to Virginia's Indian Tribes, Indigenous organizations, local educational institutions, historical societies, and other appropriate community partners, including Mayor Avula and Richmond CIty Council, as an expression of Richmond Public Schools' commitment to collaboration, education, and mutual respect.

Adopted by the Richmond City School Board on this _____ day of October, 2026.

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Chair, Richmond City School Board Clerk of the School Board

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