

RESOLUTION NO. 41-08

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE TO FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SUPPORTING THE MAY 15, 2008 MOBILIZATION OF STUDENTS ON SACRAMENTO

WHEREAS, the state budget cuts of historic proportion proposed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger represent a giant step backward for our students and community that create disarray in our public schools and threaten to derail the progress and education of millions of California students; and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Unified School District would need to reduce its investment in students by 10.4 million dollars for the 2008-09 academic year, severely undermining our efforts to close the achievement gap and bridge opportunity gaps; and

WHEREAS, research conclusively shows that an increasing number of California's students are dropping out of school and disappearing from our educational system; and

WHEREAS, against great odds, California's educators have witnessed how our students and schools, despite being constantly asked to do more with less, have been making progress, with overall reading scores up 25 percent and math scores increasing 17 percent in the last four years; and

WHEREAS, at a time when our students are making progress toward meeting rigorous state and federal education standards, the Governor's proposed budget cuts fundamentally would undermine the state's goal of improving student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Education Week now ranks California 46th in the nation in per-pupil spending, at nearly \$1,900 below the national per-student average, and we will fall to last place if these proposed cuts take effect; and

WHEREAS, California's students, parents, educators, school board members, administrators, superintendents, school employees and others are outraged that in the self-proclaimed "year of education," the Governor's proposed budget would slash \$4.8 billion from our public schools over the next year, and would violate the state's minimum school funding law, Proposition 98, which voters approved as a state constitution amendment in 1988 and reaffirmed their support for in 2005; and

WHEREAS, slashing the monumental sum of \$4.8 billion from our schools is the equivalent of laying off more than 107,000 teachers or 137,000 education support professionals; or gutting per-student funding by more than \$800; or cutting more than \$24,000 per classroom statewide; or increasing class sizes statewide by as much as 35 percent; and

WHEREAS, the budget problem was not created by our students and fixing the problem should not come at the expense of their educational progress and success; and

WHEREAS, the past several budget shortfalls have been primarily resolved with temporary measures of short-term budget cuts and massive borrowing; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed cuts would only temporarily balance the budget for one year with multi-billion dollar deficits to return the very next year, putting education at risk for even deeper cuts; and

WHEREAS, students, parents, teachers and community members have the responsibility to advocate for their future and the future of California and use the ability to voice their concerns and the damaging future of our educational system will affect them; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of schools and a community to produce active and engaged students that exercise their right to lobby on the implications of their own education,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Richmond calls on the Governor and the Legislature to put our students first, reject across-the-board cuts that would damage our public schools, and protect the voter approved, minimum school funding law, Proposition 98; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council urges the Governor and the Legislature to reverse past tax cuts, close tax loopholes, and eliminate wasteful expenditures in ways that have little, if any, negative economic impact and fully fund education and other critical state services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council joins with students and other public school allies in support of the support Campaign for Quality Education's (CQE) efforts to ensure that all schools have the resources necessary to provide our students with the educational opportunities they deserve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council supports the CQE's student mobilization on May 15th to Sacramento and encourages West Contra Costa Unified School District administrators to work collaboratively with Youth Together, a local CQE steering committee member, to ensure that students are able to participate in the democratic process and speak with their elected officials in the Capitol about the importance of having the proper education resources in place to learn and succeed in school.

I certify that the foregoing Resolution of the Members of the Richmond Redevelopment Agency of the City of Richmond was duly passed and adopted at a meeting thereof held April 22, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Lopez, Marquez, McLaughlin, Rogers, Sandhu, Thurmond, Viramontes, and Mayor McLaughlin
NOES:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	None

DIANE HOLMES
Clerk of the Redevelopment Agency

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE McLAUGHLIN
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

LOUISE RENNE, Interim
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 41-08, finally passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a meeting held on April 22, 2008.