

RESOLUTION NO. 090387

Supporting BE 1!, a grassroots, organizing effort to increase the educational achievement of the 20,000 Kansas City, Missouri School District (KCMSD) scholars by ensuring that each of our scholars are supported by at least 5 caring relationships.

WHEREAS, research shows that children who have positive adult influences in their lives are more likely to succeed educationally and in life; and

WHEREAS, BE 1! is designed to put that research into action by connecting 5 caring individuals with each of the 20,000 scholars in the KCMSD -- 100,000 family members, teachers, mentors, advocates and tutors; and

WHEREAS, BE 1! is fostering an atmosphere of collaboration and partnership by working to promote existing youth-serving programs including Youthfriends, Big Brothers Big Sisters, LNECS, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Jackson County CASA, KC Urban Youth Center, Presbyterian Children's Services, The Hope Center and KCMO's Foster Grandparent program; and

WHEREAS, BE 1! partner organizations have waiting lists of KCMSD scholars who desire to be paired up with a mentor/advocate/tutor; and

WHEREAS, individuals who choose to BE 1! of the 100,000 can make an immediate positive impact in the lives of our scholars and begin to transform the conversation surrounding the KCMSD from one of cynicism to one of hope; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby support BE 1!, a grassroots, organizing effort to increase the educational achievement of the 20,000 KCMSD scholars by ensuring that each of our scholars are supported by at least 5 caring relationships; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to the BE 1! Organization with the Mayor and Council expressing their intent to be a partner with BE 1! in order to encourage businesses, faith-based communities, neighborhoods and all who live, work, worship or play in the KCMSD area to be actively involved in the lives of our scholars.

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