

RESOLUTION

Congratulating and Honoring the Teachers and Support Staff of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf on Successfully Forming a Union and Joining the American Federation of Teachers, Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, located in the Germantown section of the City, provides unique services for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or who use assisted technology devices. The School for the Deaf works with children beginning in pre-kindergarten, and extending through high school; and

WHEREAS, The teachers and support staff at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf voted overwhelmingly for union representation in an election under the National Labor Relations Board; and

WHEREAS, The teachers and staff are committed to the mission of the school, which is to open the world of learning to Deaf and Hearing Impaired students in a supportive, nurturing, and safe environment; and

WHEREAS, Forming a union and including faculty and staff voices in decision making fosters stability. Union negotiations will provide a forum to explore educational challenges and issues in a spirit of mutual respect; and; and

WHEREAS, Their professional judgment – based on their experience as Deaf and Hearing Impaired educators – should be heard, along with those of administrators, parents, students, and board members; and

WHEREAS, It is always beneficial to students when the teachers and staff have the opportunity to advocate effectively for students without fear of reprisal; and

WHEREAS, In light of the overwhelming majority support for a union, it is in the best interests of the students for negotiations on a collective bargaining agreement to commence promptly, be conducted in good faith, with the children's best interest in mind and concluded expeditiously; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That, it hereby congratulates and honors the teachers and support staff of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf on successfully forming a union and joining the American Federation of Teachers, Pennsylvania.

**Cindy Bass
Councilwoman—8th Council District
January 22, 2015**