

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
Board of Education Meeting of February 11, 2021

Office of Strategy and Innovation  
Rick Cruz, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE FORMERLY CREATED STUDENT CONGRESS AND TO ESTABLISH A NEW HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

In November 2014, the Board of Education approved a resolution to establish a Houston Independent School District (HISD) Student Congress to serve as a formal bridge between students and administrators. The student-run organization's membership has dwindled and currently represents few of the district's high schools. Consequently, the intended mission of acquiring broad-based student input is no longer being accomplished. The district's need to incorporate student voices in districtwide decisions makes it imperative to formally convene students who represent all communities in the district to provide feedback on key decisions that impact schools.

The administration recommends that the district establish a new student advisory council for this purpose that will replace the current HISD Student Congress. Currently, there are no student organizations that contain membership representative of all high schools, and this resolution creates an opportunity to establish a formal student advisory council that is structured to incorporate student voices from all communities into conversations on issues that impact access to safe and successful schools.

The attached resolution dissolves the district's relationship with the formally created HISD Student Congress and authorizes the administration to create a new student advisory council representative of all HISD high schools, **under the direction of, and in conjunction with, district administration.** It is the intent that this formal student organization will serve as the **district-sanctioned vehicle** to incorporate student voices into decision-making on key issues that impact the HISD educational experience.

**COST/FUNDING SOURCE(S):** None. Budgeting will be determined as the administration develops a regulation regarding this new organization.

**STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:** None

**ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS/IMPACT:** This agenda item supports all four district goals and is aligned to Core Initiative 5: Culture of Trust through Action.

**THIS ITEM DOES NOT REQUIRE CONSULTATION.**

THIS ITEM DOES NOT ESTABLISH, MODIFY, OR DELETE BOARD POLICY.

RECOMMENDED: That the Board of Education approves the resolution to dissolve the relationship between HISD and the HISD Student Congress and to establish a new official student advisory council, effective February 12, 2021.

STATE OF TEXAS

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE FORMERLY CREATED STUDENT CONGRESS AND TO ESTABLISH A NEW HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, Houston Independent School District (“HISD”) administration’s FNB1(REGULATION) authorizes the superintendent to establish student advisory committees;

**WHEREAS**, neither the existing Student Congress, nor any other student organization, currently contains student representation from all HISD high schools and communities;

**WHEREAS**, the existing Student Congress has not functioned as an advisory student organization working with the HISD administration over the last several years;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education wishes to support and encourage student representation during decision-making;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of HISD hereby calls upon the HISD administration to:

- (1) Dissolve the relationship between HISD and the HISD Student Congress;
- (2) Establish a new HISD student advisory council comprised of representation from all high schools that will replace the existing HISD Student Congress and work under the direction of, and in conjunction with, district administration; and
- (3) Revise and create regulation[s] as needed to formally establish this organization as the formal districtwide Student Advisory Council to the administration.

ADOPTED THIS 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021

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President  
HISD Board of Education

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Secretary  
HISD Board of Education