

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No.*

*Approved*

WHEREAS, The Providence Public Schools anticipate a substantial increase in middle school enrollment for the upcoming 2014-15 school year; and

WHEREAS, The current set of middle school facilities lack the capacity to accommodate the anticipated increase in enrollment; and

WHEREAS, There do not appear to be any feasible options for acquiring new facilities by the start of the next academic year; and

WHEREAS, At its October 28 meeting, the School Department discussed options that involved converting high school seats (of which there currently appear to be a surplus) to middle school seats; and

WHEREAS, One option the School Department presented was to convert the Alvarez High School into a middle school; and

WHEREAS, Such a conversion may qualify as a “school closure” for the purposes of the School Board’s policy FCA on school closures; and

WHEREAS, The School Board’s school closure policy requires a careful, deliberative process with extensive input from stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, The school closures carried out in 2011, which the School Board considered carefully and deemed appropriate based on the enrollment projection data they had available at the time, caused substantial difficulties and dislocations for the affected school populations; and

WHEREAS, The enrollment projection data on which the School Board based its 2011 school closure decisions later proved to be inaccurate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence respectfully requests the Providence School Board and Providence School Department:

1. To act with the highest possible level of deliberation and thoughtfulness in addressing the middle school capacity issue for the 2014-15 school year;
2. To consider both letter and spirit of all applicable policies, including but not limited the school closure policy if circumstances so require;
3. To consider the impact of their decision on all affected stakeholders, including but not limited to the children in any existing schools that are changed, the children who will be in middle school next year and any and all other children directly or indirectly affected by an initiative to address the anticipated shortage of middle school facilities.