

The Coalition For Education And Economic Justice

P.O. Box 6082 Kansas City, Missouri 64110

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO EXPANSION OF THE LONG RANGE MAGNET PLAN

PRESS RELEASE

Whereas, The KCMSD has developed a plan that calls for converting ALL of the schools to magnet schools;

and

Whereas, The current magnet school system gives preferential treatment to white students and places an unfair and undue burden on African Americans;

and

Whereas, as a result of the magnet school system, the school is no longer an integral part of the neighborhood;

and

Whereas, under the magnet school system, African American students are retained, suspended, expelled, and drop-out at extraordinarily and disproportionately high rates;

and

Whereas, under the magnet school system, academic achievement of African American students is stagnant and in many areas has regressed;

and

Whereas, as a result of these factors, the magnet school system has been detrimental to the educational and psychological development of African American youth and is adverse to the viability of the African American community;

and

Whereas, The Coalition For Education and Economic Justice is a community based organization dedicated to educational reform, economic equity, and social justice;

and

Whereas, CEEJ has provided effective leadership in monitoring the KCMSD and keeping the community informed on issues related to the quest for educational equity and socio-economic parity;

and

Whereas, CEEJ supports various desegregation components such as reduced class size, full day kindergarten, staff development, early childhood education, capital improvements, AAA status, extended day, improved salary schedules, effective schools, and summer school because they are essential to remove the vestiges of the illegally segregated school system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned community based organizations hereby express our opposition to expanding the magnet school system to include all of the schools of the KSMSD

and

Be it further resolved that we support the alternative concept developed by CEEJ

and

Be it further resolved that we support CEEJ, their efforts for educational reform with dignity, and appreciate the leadership they have provided in the community.