**Resolution Asking Seattle City Council to Budget for School Construction**

*Submitted by Summer Stinson*

**Whereas**, Seattle is experiencing unprecedented population growth, and Seattle Public Schools (SPS) has consistently increased enrollment by about 1,000 students annually since 2010; and,

**Whereas**, Seattle is critically and urgently short hundreds of permanent classrooms, with insufficient funding for this capital gap, at great and immediate cost to the quality of education outcomes; and,

**Whereas**, basically all previously surplus permanent classroom space has been reclaimed, and SPS teaches about 4,800 students in 200 “temporary” portable classrooms; and,

**Whereas**, Seattle needs approximately 350 more classrooms to lower class sizes to 17 students in grades K-3, as required by Washington state basic education laws; and,

**Whereas**, a voter-approved program for quality preschool education is requesting space in SPS school buildings; and,

**Whereas**, the 2016 SPS capital levy is mainly directed to the maintenance backlog and is not intended to address enrollment growth and class-size reduction needs; and,

**Whereas**, Seattle is experiencing a 40,000-unit housing boom with no plans to add schools to accommodate this growth; and,

**Whereas**, the Growth Management Act (GMA) empowered local jurisdictions to impose developer impact fees so that growth pays for growth, and these fees are an essential source of school construction funds in most other growing Puget Sound cities; and

**Whereas**, according to King County “Countywide Planning Policies,” the City is required “[to] Plan, through a cooperative process between jurisdictions and school districts, that public school facilities are available to meet the needs of existing and projected residential development consistent with adopted comprehensive plan policies and growth forecasts…”; and,

**Whereas**, developer impact fees are a vital and necessary funding source for SPS school construction;

**Therefore be it resolved** that we urge the Seattle City Council to recognize this capacity crisis and to pass a developer impact fee ordinance dedicated to funding Seattle public school construction.

Originated by Sarajane Siegfriedt with Eden Mack
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Passed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2016 by the 36th District Democrats

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