SANTA FE TRAIL SCHOOL DISTRICT, UNIFIED SCHOOL DISRICT NO. 434

BOARD RESOLUTION 2015

Kansas State Legislative Actions Relating to School Board Elections

A RESOLUTION by the Board of Education of Santa Fe Trail Public Schools, Unified School District No. 434, Osage County, Kansas, regarding the Kansas State Legislature’s proposed bills to alter the process for electing public board of education members in Kansas.

WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers of the State of Kansas provided in Article 6 of the State’s Constitution

for the establishment and maintenance of public schools; and

WHEREAS, the people of Kansas approved by popular vote an amendment in 1966 endowing locally‐elected boards of education with the sole responsibility of maintaining, developing and operating local public schools; and

WHEREAS, all children in Kansas deserve access to a public education absent of potentially divisive partisanship; and

WHEREAS, moving local public school board elections to November of even-numbered years would reduce focus on school board candidates as they compete for attention with all other candidates for every federal, state and local office; and

WHEREAS, moving school board elections from the spring to fall would impair a school district’s efficient operation based on a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30; and

WHEREAS, moving school board elections from the spring to fall would potentially create a “lame duck” board, thereby impeding discussions of administrator evaluations, contract extensions, teacher evaluations, teacher negotiations and budget preparation; and

WHEREAS, partisan elections would bar federal executive branch and military employees from running for office and serving their communities by holding local office; and

WHEREAS, current options in voting plans allow local districts to determine the best plan to ensure representation from all parts of the district; and

WHEREAS, the current election cycle for electing local public education board members has and will continue to serve the children of Kansas well, as demonstrated by the fact that Kansas ranks among the top states in educational outcome for successful students while spending below the national average per pupil; and

WHEREAS, increasing voter participation can be accomplished without disrupting the current election cycle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we as a Locally-Elected Board of Education call upon the Kansas State Legislature to pass no law changing the election cycle for local boards of education; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we as a Locally-Elected Board of Education call upon the Kansas State Legislature to pass no law changing the nonpartisan status of local board of education elections.

ADOPTED by the Santa Fe Trail School District Board of Education on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.