WHEREAS, the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) was established in March 2015 by the D.C. State Board of Education to provide a voice for all students in the District of Columbia and to promote communication between the State Board, District students, and other education decision-makers;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education modified the SAC and Student Representative program in May 2021 to be more reflective of the student population in the District by increasing the number of Student Representatives from two (2) to four (4) beginning in the 2021–22 school year and requiring that at least one Student Representative lives in or attends a school located in Wards 7 or 8 (see SR21-3);

WHEREAS, the 2021–22 SAC is currently led by Student Representatives Liv Birnstad, a junior at Capital City Public Charter School; Skye-Ali Johnson, a senior at Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Art; and Juliana Lopez, a junior at Columbia Heights Educational Campus;

WHEREAS, students of the 2021–22 SAC have met monthly to discuss education policy issues of importance to students in the District of Columbia, convened speakers and presenters to share insights, and engaged with their respective high schools to bring awareness to the work of the State Board; and

WHEREAS, the 2021–22 SAC has focused its efforts on COVID-19 safety guidelines, student voice in the education standards review and revision process, mental health support, safe passage, and youth vaccination initiatives—including testifying in front of the Council of the District of Columbia’s “No Shots, No Schools” hearing in June—and will present their work to the State Board in an upcoming SAC annual report which includes recommendations for next steps on these important issues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the D.C. State Board of Education extends its gratitude to the 2021–22 Student Advisory Committee for their service and celebrates the numerous accomplishments of the SAC and its three current student leaders Liv Birnstad, Skye-Ali Johnson, and Juliana Lopez.

Date Adopted: 7/20/2022
Signed: Jessica Sutter, President