

July 24, 2025

**RESOLUTION HONORING RUCHI VERMA  
GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

**WHEREAS**, Ruchi Verma has served with distinction, dedication, and legal excellence as General Counsel to the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (Board) from March 2023 to August 2025, concluding a career with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) that spanned over 17 years and made a lasting impact on public education throughout Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Verma has led the Board's Law Department with vision and integrity, overseeing a team of more than 100 legal professionals across eight areas of practice—including litigation, labor and employment, school law, student discipline, school finance, commercial transactions, and workers' compensation—while managing a legal budget of over \$20 million; and

**WHEREAS**, in her capacity as General Counsel, Ms. Verma served as the chief legal advisor to the Board, including the Board President and Members, and provided strategic guidance on litigation, employee discipline, risk mitigation, legislative compliance, and policy development; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Verma was an integral member of the CPS Executive Leadership Team, regularly advising the chief executive officer, chief education officer, and other senior leaders on high-impact legal matters and aligning legal strategy with district-wide priorities to advance student outcomes and operational excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, under her leadership, the Law Department launched its first-ever strategic plan, structured around five key priorities focused on improving internal systems, ensuring contracting excellence, and using data and risk analysis to promote equity for the District's most vulnerable students; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Verma led efforts to embed equity and inclusion throughout the department by sustaining a comprehensive diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategy, launching regular department-wide training, a Race and Equity Leadership Team, and a high school internship program to help diversify the future of the legal profession; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Verma earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Speech Communications, summa cum laude, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and her Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she served as comments editor for the Journal of Labor and Employment Law; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Verma began her legal career at Sidley Austin LLP in 2003, where she focused on litigation and internal investigations and was recognized with the firm's Thomas K. Morsch Pro Bono Public Service Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Verma joined the CPS Law Department in 2008 as an assistant general counsel in the School Law Unit, where she provided legal counsel on student privacy, charter schools, enrollment, bilingual education, and school governance—and later rose to the role of deputy general counsel in 2012, and in 2019, became first deputy general counsel of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout her tenure, Ms. Verma contributed to the development of key District initiatives, including the establishment of the Office of Student Protections and Title IX, implementation of the annual school action process, and oversight of the District's legal response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Verma's leadership was instrumental in fostering a collaborative legal culture grounded in proactive client service, strategic thinking, and a deep commitment to student-centered solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Verma has been recognized beyond CPS for her outstanding leadership and public service, including being named one of the Top Women Lawyers in Leadership by the Women's Bar Association of Illinois on October 27, 2022—an honor presented to only seven women statewide who have demonstrated extraordinary professional accomplishments and influence; and

**WHEREAS**, her service has been marked by unwavering professionalism, a deep belief in the transformative power of public education, and a legacy of leadership that has strengthened the legal foundation and ethical culture of the Board;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Board President and Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025, on behalf of the entire Chicago Public Schools community, do hereby express our profound gratitude and highest commendation to Ruchi Verma for her exceptional service, exemplary leadership, and steadfast commitment to the students and families of Chicago; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be made available to Ruchi Verma as a token of our appreciation and respect.