EAST BAY INNOVATIONS ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-1
OPTION TO AWARD ALTERNATIVE DIPLOMAS IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS
AND DISTANCE LEARNING

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Newsom authorized local educational agencies ("LEAs") to close schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year to address the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a stay-at-home order requiring all California residents to stay home or at their place of residence; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020 East Bay Innovations Academy ("EBIA") closed its physical school site in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Governor Newsom's orders, the directives and guidance from the California Department of Education ("CDE") and the California Department of Public Health ("CDPH"); and

WHEREAS, EBIA continued to offer educational opportunities through a distance learning model for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, EBIA opened for the 2020-2021 school year in a full virtual distance learning model in accordance with CDE and CDPH guidance; and

WHEREAS, EBIA's graduation requirements as set forth in the EBIA charter, exceed the California minimum graduation requirements established by Education Code Section 51225.3 and exceed the minimum University of California "A-G" requirements;

WHEREAS, as a result of the overall impact of the COVID-19 crisis and distance learning, some EBIA twelfth graders ("seniors") as of the 2020-21 school year will be unable to meet the heightened graduation requirements outlined in EBIA's charter, but will be able to meet either the University of California "A-G" requirements or the California State Minimum Requirements outlined in Education Code Section 51225.3; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2020, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1350 into law, which amended Education Code section 51430 to allow the governing board of a charter school to retroactively grant a high school diploma to "a person [who] was in their senior year of high school during the 2019-20 school year; in good academic standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019-20 school year as of March 1, 2020; and unable to complete the statewide graduation requirements as a result of the COVID-19 crisis"; and

WHEREAS, EBIA seeks to ensure that, in light of the COVID-19 crisis, all students who were seniors during the 2019-2020 school year, pursuant to AB 1350, or those who are seniors during the 2020-2021 school year who met or will meet the requirements for a high school diploma under the laws of California shall be able to obtain their high school diploma within the timeline of expected graduation had the COVID-19 crisis not occurred.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of EBIA ("Board") hereby authorizes EBIA's administration to award a regular high school diploma to any 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 senior who meets the California "A-G" requirements, as detailed in the Adjusted Graduation Plan, even if that senior does not meet the heightened EBIA charter requirements set forth in the charter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes EBIA administration to award a regular high school diploma to any student in their senior year during the 2020-2021 school year who meets the California State Minimum Standards as set forth in Education Code Section 51225.3.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board, pursuant to AB 1350, authorizes EBIA administration to award a diploma to any student who, as of March 1, 2020, was in good academic standing and was on track to graduate pursuant to Education Code section 51225.3's minimum requirements, but was prevented from completing the graduation requirements due to the COVID-19 crisis.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of EBIA at a meeting held on February 23, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Chair, Board of Directors