That WHEREAS, the cost of the school budget has increased substantially over time, creating a financial burden for many in our community; and

WHEREAS, the education of our children is of paramount importance and must be supported by a stable and sustainable financial foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor outlined five cost control proposals for Superintendent Jeanne Collins and the Burlington School Board (BSD) at the January 13, 2014 City Council meeting and thereafter in a January 21, 2014 letter to Superintendent Collins; and

WHEREAS, these measures included:

* A joint effort to develop a consolidated, coordinated 10-year capital plan for the City and the BSD;
* An agreement to cooperate on a management consultant study that would explore centralization of some City and BSD financial functions under the responsibility of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO);
* An agreement to explore regional municipal and education savings with at least the cities of Winooski and South Burlington;
* An agreement to meaningfully engage the City’s CAO throughout the BSD’s FY16 budget formulation process; and
* An agreement not to seek a Charter Change regarding bonding; and

WHEREAS, in a February 17, 2014 letter from School Board Chair Alan Matson to the Mayor, the School Board expressed interest in exploring cost saving measures and conceptual support for working together on the Mayor’s cost control proposals, and in his February 19, 2014 letter to Board Chair Matson, the Mayor indicated that he would make this collaboration a central focus of the CAO’s team in calendar year 2014; and

WHEREAS, the School Board and Administration have agreed that this process begin with the creation of a Cost Control Committee, including School Board Commissioners, City Councilors, and appropriate Administration and BSD staff, with the understanding that the Committee will (1) meet to establish clear goals for addressing the five cost control proposals and other items, (2) charge BSD and City staff with creating an implementation plan for the proposals, and (3) review, discuss, and advise on the implementation plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council President will appoint two City Councilors to serve on the Cost Control Committee.

lb/EBlackwood/Resolutions 2014/School Dept. - Appointment of Two City Councilors to Serve on Cost Control Committee re Budget

3/5/14