



Cherry Hill Public Schools

Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace, P.O. Box 5015
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
(856) 429-5600
Fax (856) 354-1864

SPECIAL ACTION AGENDA **March 13, 2018**

D. POLICIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ON UNDERFUNDING IN STATE AID TO SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, state leaders are currently preparing the fiscal year spending plan for 2018-2019 (FY19) in the form of budget proposals in which school aid amounts will be announced; and

WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 (SFRA) remains the current law to provide state aid to public school districts; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the SFRA, the Cherry Hill Public Schools have a deficit in state aid in excess of \$14,800,000 for 2017-2018 (FY18) alone; and

WHEREAS, in FY18, the Cherry Hill Public Schools received only 48% of their uncapped SFRA funding; and

WHEREAS, in FY18, 209 New Jersey school districts received more than 100% of their uncapped SFRA funding, largely through Adjustment Aid that was intended to be phased out years ago; and

WHEREAS, this unfair distribution of state aid has caused the taxpayers of the Township of Cherry Hill to pay in excess of \$14,800,000 more than their local fair share of property taxes in FY18; and

WHEREAS, the failure to fully fund the SFRA, or to fairly distribute available state aid to schools, or to increase the amount of Underadequacy Aid has denied the students of the Cherry Hill Public Schools the resources needed for their educational success; and

WHEREAS, the Cherry Hill Board of Education has held regular, public discussions about the ongoing, severe underfunding in state aid to the school district; and

WHEREAS, the Cherry Hill Board of Education has met with local and state legislators in support of school funding fairness; and

WHEREAS, the Cherry Hill Board of Education has informed citizens about the lack of equity in state aid distribution through publication, social media posts, and participation with the Cherry Hill Fair Funding Committee;



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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cherry Hill Board of Education does appeal to the New Jersey Commissioner of Education and the Governor of the State of New Jersey to put forth a spending plan that fully funds the SFRA; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the SFRA cannot be fully funded due to fiscal conditions, that the funds available for state aid to schools be fairly and proportionally divided per the SFRA formula; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if full redistribution is not possible this year, that sufficient additional monies be allocated to Underadequacy Aid to close the adequacy gap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the New Jersey Commissioner of Education, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the State Senator and State Assemblypersons from Legislative District 6, and the Mayor and Council President of Cherry Hill.

Motion Mrs. Scarpellino Second Mrs. Matlack Vote Ayes - 8 No - 0
Dr. Dickinson – absent

This is to certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Cherry Hill Township Board of Education at its special action meeting held on March 13, 2018.


Lynn E. Shugars
Asst. Supt., Business/Board Secretary


Notary Public

DEBORAH TACKETT
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires October 14, 2020