

RESOLUTION ON 2017 EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND FOUNDATION AID

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents and State Education Associations called for an increase of over \$2 billion in state funding for public education, the Executive Budget includes a \$1 billion increase; and

WHEREAS, State Education Associations called for a three year phase-in of the \$4.3 billion outstanding in Foundation Aid, equating to approximately \$1.2 billion for 2017-18, the Executive Budget proposes only \$378 million in Foundation Aid (plus \$50 million for Community Schools); and

WHEREAS, The Executive Budget ignores its obligation to fully fund the 2007 Foundation Aid phase-in dollars and instead sets its 2017-18 level as the new Foundation Aid base, thereby defaulting on the State's responsibility to comply with Court ordered state funding levels to provide students the opportunity for a sound basic education under the NYS Constitution; and..."; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation Aid formula is based on 2000 census data and outdated enrollment, poverty, ELL, special education costs, and related data, rather than actual year-to-year changes; and

WHEREAS, the State measures poverty based on the Federal income threshold rather than poverty measures that incorporate salary, expenditures, and regional cost differences; and

WHEREAS Westchester and Putnam Counties are included in the Hudson Valley Regional Cost Index rather than the Nassau-Suffolk-NYC Regional Cost Index, and SED uses a county by county regional cost index for building aid, the Hudson Valley Regional Cost does not reflect our true regional costs, and

WHEREAS, the Ardsley Union Free School District is underfunded by \$2,082,372 for this year alone as per the current fully funded Foundation Aid formula.

WHEREAS for the third year in a row, the New York State Tax Levy Cap will be under 2%, a pattern which is unsustainable, particularly for school districts that rely heavily on tax levy funding; and

WHEREAS the Governor and State Legislature continue to support the tax levy limit, the current equation is not sustainable. Onerous mandates must be addressed, and levy limit formula adjustments approved, including: incorporating enrollment, poverty, ELL student changes; eliminating negative allowable levy limits (0% floor); implementing minimum 2% allowable growth factor; accounting for PILOTS or large tax certiorari; allowing Boards of Education to override with a 60% vote, followed by a majority vote by the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Ardsley Union Free School District calls upon the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate to OPPOSE the adoption of any budget that does not include an increase in foundation aid in accordance with phased-in payments of Foundation Aid dollars due under the formula with a save-harmless provision.

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Ardsley Union Free School District calls upon the Governor, NYS Assembly and NYS Senate to actively SUPPORT the use of regularly updated district data, more appropriate student need weightings and poverty measures in Foundation Aid formula; and

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Ardsley Union Free School District calls upon the Governor, NYS Assembly and NYS Senate to SUPPORT a valid regional cost index by including our counties in the Nassau-Suffolk-NYC Regional Cost Index; or ideally, by applying the SED county-by-county cost index to all school aid formulas; and

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Ardsley Union Free School District calls upon the Governor, NYS Assembly and NYS Senate to SUPPORT key adjustments to mandates and the tax levy limit; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Ardsley Union Free School District calls upon the Governor, NYS Assembly and NYS Senate to OPPOSE the adoption of any State budget that does not fulfill the State's obligation to appropriately fund public education and meet the needs of our student, and to do so with transparency and evidence-based measures.

The Board of Education directs the District Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the following people:

- Thomas J. Abinanti, State Assembly Member (for school district)
- Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Senator (for school district)
- Andrew Cuomo, the Governor of the State of New York
- Carl Heastie, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly
- John Flanagan, the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate
- Catherine Nolan, Assemblywoman, Chair, Committee on Education
- Lisa Davis, Executive Director, Westchester Putnam School Boards Association