



BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A great place to learn"

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Jacquelyn L. Taylor, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Be it resolved by the Byram Hills School District that mandate relief must be addressed by the New York State Legislature as school districts implement the property tax levy limit.

WHEREAS, New York State leads the nation in local property taxes, in large part because New York leads the nation in imposing unfunded state mandates upon our local municipalities and school districts; and

WHEREAS, in response to New York's property tax crisis, the Governor and members of the New York State Legislature enacted legislation imposing a limit on the annual growth of the local school tax levy; and

WHEREAS, New York State school districts are under unprecedented funding shortfalls due to three years of frozen Foundation Aid, last year's \$1.2 billion aid cut, expiration of federal stimulus aid and revenue restrictions under the tax levy limit, which goes into effect for the 2012-13 school year, and

WHEREAS, unfunded and underfunded state mandates continually increase the obligations and expenditures of local public school districts, and a property tax levy limit without significant mandate reform will inescapably lead to drastic cuts in essential local school district programs and services, as well as significant layoffs of school district employees, and in some cases outright insolvency, in New York State school districts; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of satisfying unfunded and underfunded mandates diverts local money from our school district's top priority of student learning,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

that we the members of the Board of Education of the Byram Hills School District join fellow school board members in Westchester and Putnam Counties in affirming the obligation of the Governor of the State of New York and the members of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly, to reform mandates that are unsound, unduly burdensome or costly, and thereby lead to high property taxes in New York.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in accordance with Article 24, Executive Law §666, which establishes a Mandate Relief Council, the Byram Hills School District asks, by resolution of its governing body, that the Mandate Relief Council review the following mandate to determine whether the specific statute, regulation, rule or order of state government is an unfunded mandate or is otherwise unsound, unduly burdensome or costly so as to require that it be eliminated or reformed:

FISCAL REFORM

- a. Tiers 3 & 4 Contributions after 10 Years – Restore 3% TRS and ERS employee contribution requirements for employees with over 10 years service by revoking the applicable section of the 2000 pension enhancement legislation.
New York Retirement and Social Security - Article 19 - Law § 902 b.1., b.2., b.3.

The Byram Hills School District located in Armonk, New York with an enrollment of 2,652 students for 2011-2012 estimates that if the legislature and Governor would address Fiscal Reform for employee contributions for Tier 3 and 4 members with 10 years of service. The district could save approximately \$622,800 if the 3% TRS and ERS employee contribution is restored. For TRS participants the district and local taxpayers would benefit by approximately \$501,400 and for ERS participants the district would benefit by approximately \$121,400. Long-term pension reform is critical to the sustainability of excellence in public education. The pension system provides an excellent benefit to public employees, however, a 3% contribution is reasonable and needed to ensure that precious tax dollars in New York State are directed appropriately. Pension costs are an inordinately high percentage of school district budgets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, and the members of the State Senate and Assembly representing Westchester and Putnam Counties.

Byram Hills Board of Education

Mr. Ira Schulman, President

Mr. Brett Summers, Vice President

Dr. Leslie Blum Cziner

Dr. Alban Burke

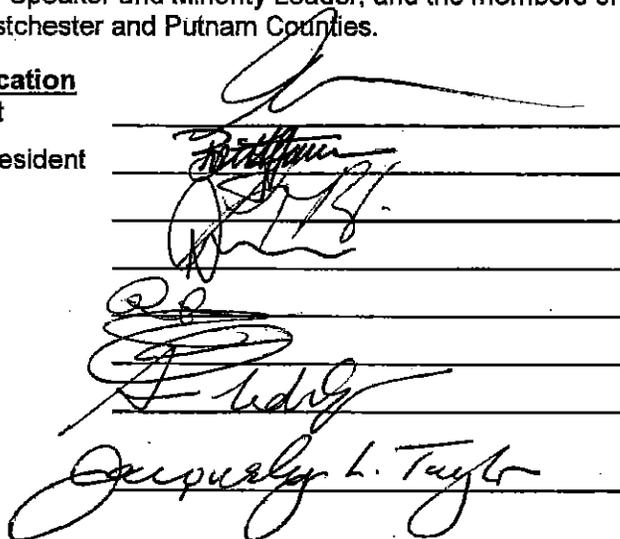
Ms. Robin Glat

Ms. Joyce Meiklejohn

Dr. Ann Tedesco

Superintendent

Dr. Jacquelyn L. Taylor



Handwritten signatures of the Byram Hills Board of Education members and Superintendent Dr. Jacquelyn L. Taylor, each placed over a horizontal line.