



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:

TRANSPORTATION

- a. 15 Mile Transportation to Non-public School - Reduce mileage limits for private school out-of-district transportation from 15 to 5 miles
New York Education - Part 3 - § 3635 Transportation

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 the reform in the area of transportation, the district would save approximately \$400,000 if the 15 mile transportation law was reduced to 5 miles.

The State Education Department, due to fiscal needs, has consistently reduced state aid to public schools for transportation costs.

This practice of shifting the burden of state mandated costs to public schools must be eliminated.

As noted in the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents recommendations for Mandate Relief 2011, New York State tax payers are subsidizing private school transportation that is excessive and that financially benefits the private school investors, trustees and parents who have chosen these alternatives to their local public schools.

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

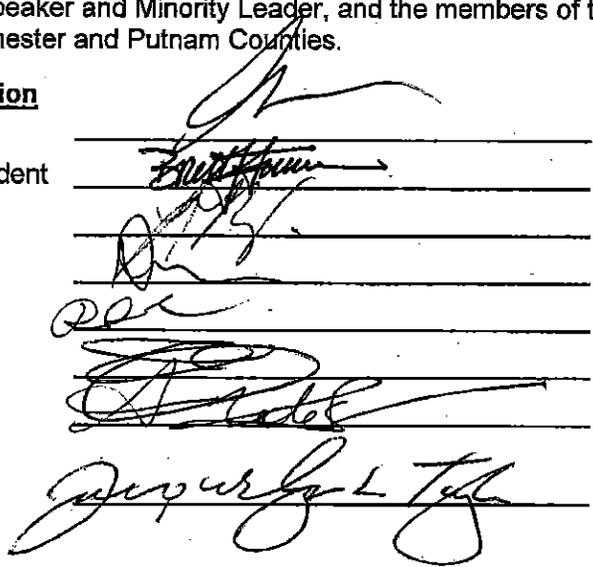
Ms. Robin Glat

Ms. Joyce Meiklejohn

Dr. Ann Tedesco

Superintendent

Dr. Jacquelyn L. Taylor



Handwritten signatures of the board members and superintendent, each written over a horizontal line.