Transcript of minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of New Rochelle, County of Westchester, State of New York, held on 06/26/2012

Mary Jane Reddington moved, seconded by Deirdre Polow, that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 12-354

RESOLUTION URGING STATE LAWMAKERS TO PROVIDE MANDATE RELIEF

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City School District of the City of New Rochelle 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 City School District of the City of New Rochelle, 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in accordance with Article 24, Executive Law §666, which establishes a Mandate Relief Council, the City School District of the City of New Rochelle, a Small Cities school district located in the City of New Rochelle, County of Westchester, State of New York, with an enrollment of approximately 11,000 students for 2011-2012 school year, 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
Last In, First Out – LIFO
Seniority should not be mandated as the sole factor when reducing tenured staff.
Education Law Sections 2510 and 3013 (cities).

Using Last In, First Out—LIFO is not educationally sound decision-making because it prohibits a district from considering such factors as, but not limited to, expertise, skill, quality of instruction and specialized certification. For example, teachers certified in French and Spanish all fall within the same tenure area of foreign language. While the least senior member of the foreign language department may be a "French expert" teacher, and no one else in the department possesses that same expertise, the least senior member, i.e., the "French" teacher, would be the faculty member excessed in the foreign language tenure area, thus forcing the district to either retain a less qualified member of the teaching staff, i.e. a "Spanish" teacher who may lack the certification required to teach the French class(es), or eliminate the program. This example is one of many possible scenarios that can affect multiple subject areas in secondary education outside of foreign language.

And

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; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION N0. 12-354 AS FOLLOWS:

AYES:	**5**	**(C. Petrone; D. Lacher; D. Polow; M.J. Reddington; R. Relkin)**
NAYS:	**0**	
ABSTENTIONS:	**0**	
ABSENT:	**4**	**(J. Hastie; N. Brickel; L. Merchant; V. Orellana)**

RESOLUTION N0. 12-354 WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

AUTHENTICATED AND CERTIFIED

Lisdalia I Saraiva

LISDALIA I. SARAIVA
SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK