

SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

15 FREDRICK BOULEVARD

WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP, NJ 08085

Phone: 856-241-1552

Fax: 856-467-7041

WWW.SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH.COM

Kristin P. O'Neil, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools

Christopher J. DeStratis
School Business Administrator

RESOLUTION OF THE SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN ADDRESSING THE SCHOOL FUNDING ISSUE FACED BY THE SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is attempting to address the New Jersey property tax crisis which the residents throughout the State are experiencing; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census, the population of the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District has experienced 40% growth since 2006; and

WHEREAS, the impact being felt by the taxpayers of the Borough of Swedesboro and the Township of Woolwich in the County of Gloucester are due in part to this growth and its impact on the School District of Swedesboro-Woolwich, which find themselves at a disadvantage in attempting to address the needs of its student population during such period of significant growth; and

WHEREAS, the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District is experiencing the severe impact that being funded far below adequacy is having on the District, as funding is approaching \$2.36 million below adequacy, which number will continue to climb as state school funding remains flat and its enrollment continues to increase from the current enrollment of 1,732; and

WHEREAS, despite such rise in student population and therefore costs, the State of New Jersey has failed to address growth-district school funding, thereby leaving the educational expense of a vast majority of its student populations born solely on the taxpayers of the Borough of Swedesboro and Woolwich Township; and

WHEREAS, due to this inequity, the taxpayers have been asked to carry the burden of unprecedented tax hikes over the past fifteen years, local levy per pupil for Swedesboro-Woolwich has risen by 270% in the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District; and

WHEREAS, numerous districts across the state are in a declining enrollment pattern, yet still receiving an increase in state aid as a result of the hold harmless provision. This hardly seems fair and in effect punishes the districts most in need of state aid increases; and

WHEREAS, due to these facts, the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education urges the New Jersey Department of Education to reevaluate the situation faced by the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District, and assist in any way possible to resolve the significant budget dilemma faced by such districts; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that these issues be expediently addressed while continuing to provide the allotment of Supplemental Enrollment Growth Aid at the onset of full funding implementation; and,

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WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act offered the promise of making real the constitutional duty of offering a "thorough and efficient" education for each and every school and that school aid would be given fairly and equitably statewide based on a formula that took into account each municipality's property tax base, its ability to pay, increases and decreases in enrollment and any special needs of the children;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education does hereby respectfully request the assistance of the New Jersey State Department of Education and/or the State Legislature in exploring ways in which the state can help, like SR-100, to take the burden of education off of the shoulders of the property tax payers within growth districts due to the failure to properly follow the State's funding formula and to assist in offsetting the educational and operating costs of extraordinary growth districts which impact the taxpayers of such districts in astronomical proportions.

Adopted February 8, 2017

SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH BOE

Craig Frederick, BOE President

ATTEST: _____
Kristin P. O'Neil, Ed. D., Superintendent

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education of the Borough of Swedesboro and Township of Woolwich at a meeting held on the 8th day of February, 2017.

Christopher DeStratis, Board Secretary