

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGISLATION WHICH ELIMINATES SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES

BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the Radnor Township School District is aware that school property tax reform is being pursued by the Pennsylvania Legislature; and

WHEREAS, property tax is the primary source of funding for Pennsylvania's school districts and accounts for 77% of the Radnor Township School District's annual revenue budget; and

WHEREAS, the property taxes collected locally stay in the community in which they are levied and enable a locally determined and consistent delivery of the District's educational programming that would be undermined and disrupted if funds were to flow through the State, leaving Radnor Township School District susceptible to delays in funding ; and

WHEREAS, no legislation contemplated has provided for an articulated disbursement formula for revenue cash flow for any district impacted by such legislation; and

WHEREAS, eliminating property taxes means the portion of property tax burden currently carried by businesses (including landlords) of approximately \$14.5 million will be shifted to individuals in the form of increased personal income and sales taxes; and

WHEREAS, with the elimination of stable and predictable school property taxes, the funds needed to replace this revenue would come from an increase in the Personal Income Tax from 3.07% to 4.95% and an increase in the Sales and Use Tax from 6% to 7% with the loss of many exceptions to this tax such as food, clothing, personal services and more; and

WHEREAS, the most recent proposal for property tax reform does not completely eliminate property taxes because school taxes will still be levied to pay off debt, and the proposal also still allows for municipalities and counties to levy taxes; and

WHEREAS, the proposed funding formula would eliminate property tax collection still does nothing to fund mandates such as special education costs, pension costs, charter school costs, Keystone graduation requirements and other unfunded state and federal mandates; and

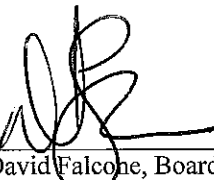
WHEREAS, the implementation of this proposal would be devastating to the educational system and program of the Radnor Township School District, which is consistently highly regarded locally and nationally, even as early as the start of the 2017-18 school year; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this proposal would have a material and detrimental impact to the real estate values of properties located within Radnor Township School District.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that WE, the Board of School Directors of the Radnor Township School District, oppose the contemplated legislation or any legislation similar in form, substance or content designed to eliminate local control of school property taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WE, the Board of School Directors of the Radnor Township School District call upon the General Assembly to explore funding alternatives that do not sacrifice the local control of the education of our students.

Approved January 31, 2017



David Falcone, Board President



Michelle Diekow, Board Secretary