

Resolution

Questioning and Opposing New Jersey State School Funding Cuts

WHEREAS High Bridge is a quaint residential bedroom community located in Hunterdon County and is home to just over 3,500 residents with minimal businesses, industry and other ratables to offset the residential property tax; and the majority of the tax burden in High Bridge falls upon the residents of this small community; and

WHEREAS the State Aid numbers to local school districts are currently scheduled to be released in late February or early March 2024, and whereas, this is the fifth and final year of the full implementation of S2 (also known as Chapter Law 67), and the High Bridge School district has now realized significant cuts in State-Aid since the implementation of S2, despite New Jersey being legally obligated to provide adequate funding for all school districts; and

WHEREAS since the implementation of S2 the High Bridge School District State Aid cuts have amounted to over 50% of our State Aid. High Bridge School District has been one of the largest percentages of State-Aid reduction since the implementation of S2 and we expect that upon full implementation of S2, High Bridge School District will have lost over 75% of its State Aid.

WHEREAS, the loss of the State Aid to High Bridge School District is significantly impacting our ability to provide an adequate education to our students; and coupled with the State imposed 2% cap on budget increases, unfunded State mandates and several State decisions that significantly impact the local School Boards, make it nearly impossible to maintain any levels of standardized learning.

WHEREAS, the High Bridge Board of Education believes that the State of New Jersey is responsible for providing Adequate Funding for all School Districts under the S2; and whereas S2 was supposed to help correct funding distribution and High Bridge, with its mostly residential base, was not overfunded, yet we have lost the majority of our aid and the continual loss of funding continues; and whereas we believe that the State of New Jersey is not meeting its responsibilities related to providing adequate funding to the children or residents of High Bridge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the High Bridge Board of Education urges the Governor's Office, District 16 New Jersey State Senator Andrew Zwicker, New Jersey Assemblywoman Michelle Drulis, New Jersey Assemblyman Roy Frieman and New Jersey Minority Leader John DiMaio for immediate review and action on the funding mechanisms under S2 for High Bridge and provide financial relief to High Bridge in the amount of \$657,764. to compensate for an unprecedented cut of nearly 50% of our State funding over the last two fiscal years; and another anticipated loss of over \$300,000.00 to be determined this year and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy and our Legislative Representatives; and to the New Jersey School Boards Association.