

WEST MILFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AS  
RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK

The Board of Education of the Township of West Milford in the County of Passaic, New Jersey, convened in public session on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 7:04 p.m., in the Macopin School Auditorium.

The following members of the Board of Education were present: Mrs. Racano, Mr. Lippe, Mrs. Marquard, Mr. Cytowicz, Mrs. Jurgensen, Mrs. Romeo, Mrs. Van Dyk, and Mrs. Lockwood.

The following members of the Board of Education were absent: Mrs. Dwyer.

Motion by Mr. Lippe, seconded by Mr. Cytowicz, to approve the following agenda item:

The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 ("SFRA"), *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-43, et seq.*, was intended by the New Jersey Legislature ("Legislature") "to develop an equitable and predictable way to distribute State aid that addresses deficiencies found in past formulas as identified by the Supreme Court," *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-44h*; and

**WHEREAS**, in enacting the SFRA, the Legislature declared that "[t]he development and implementation of an equitable and adequate school funding formula will not only ensure that the State's students have access to a constitutional education as defined by the core curriculum content standards, but also may help to reduce property taxes and assist communities in planning to meet their education expenses" and that "[t]he development of a predictable, transparent school funding formula is essential for school districts to plan effectively and deliver the quality education that our citizens expect and our Constitution requires," *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-44q*; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 24, 2024, *nj.com* reported that during the period from 2007-08 (*i.e.*, the last year before New Jersey overhauled its school funding formula) and 2024-25 (*i.e.*, the first year the formula will be fully implemented), widespread disparities that have developed between school funding changes and enrollment changes among various school districts, including the West Milford School District; and

**WHEREAS**, among Passaic County school districts, the following illustrative disparities have developed between school funding changes and enrollment changes:

<u>District</u>	<u>Funding Change %</u>	<u>Enrollment Change %</u>
Bloomington Borough	-43.0%	- 2.4%
Lakeland Regional	-66.8%	-26.5%
Ringwood Borough	-47.7%	-24.7%
Wanaque Borough	-45.4%	- 9.0%
West Milford Township	-63.2%	-30.5%

**WHEREAS**, among Sussex County school districts, the following illustrative disparities have developed between school funding changes and enrollment changes:

<u>District</u>	<u>Funding Change %</u>	<u>Enrollment Change %</u>
Frankford Township	-60.3%	-26.6%
Hamburg Borough	-35.2%	-15.8%
Hampton Township	-51.0%	-23.8%
Hardyston Township	-42.4%	-21.5%
Hopatcong Township	-77.4%	-41.4%
Kittatinny Regional	-70.4%	-34.6%
Stillwater Township	-73.0%	-30.7%

**WHEREAS**, among Morris County school districts, the following illustrative disparities have developed between school funding changes and enrollment changes:

<u>District</u>	<u>Funding Change %</u>	<u>Enrollment Change %</u>
Jefferson Township	-65.3%	-31.7%
Randolph Township	-34.2%	-24.4%
Roxbury Township	-49.2%	-23.2%
Washington Township	-53.7%	-31.1%

**WHEREAS**, the direct and immediate effect of these disparities between school funding changes and enrollment changes has been to defeat the legislative intent behind the SFRA by exacerbating the local property tax burden in these communities and by depriving these school districts of an equitable, predictable, and transparent school funding formula that will enable them to plan effectively and deliver the quality education that our students deserve; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends the adoption of this Resolution;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the West Milford School District ("Board") hereby endorses legislative reform of the school funding formula enacted under the SFRA that will remediate the disparities that have developed between school funding changes and enrollment changes during its implementation and commends that such reform include, but not be limited to, the avoidance of catastrophic aid losses between school years and the limitation of state aid reductions for relatively small fluctuations in enrollment between school years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board requests that the Board Secretary transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Philip Murphy; State Senate President Nicholas Scutari; Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; State Senator Parker Space; Assembly Persons Michael Inganamort and Dawn Fantasia; and the Boards of Education of the aforementioned school districts.

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>VOTE</b>	<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>VOTE</b>	<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
Mr. Lippe	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Absent	Mrs. Marquard	Yes
Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes
Mrs. Jurgensen	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes	Mrs. Lockwood	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED**.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY )  
 ) ss  
COUNTY OF PASSAIC )

I, William Scholts, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, of the Township of West Milford, in the County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education of said district duly called and held on September 17, 2024, has been compared by me with the original minutes as officially recorded in my office in the minute book of said West Milford Township Board of Education and is a true, complete copy thereof and of the whole of said original minutes so far as the same relate to the subject matter referred to in said extract. I witness I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said Board of Education this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Board Seal



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William Scholts  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator

