

GLASSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Board Items

Date Submitted: May 8, 2020

Proposed Effective Date: Immediately

Submitted by:

Jennifer Johnson, Board Secretary on behalf of Board
President Pete Calvo

Position/Item:

S-2392 Resolution

Proposed cost/amount:

N/A

Funded Through:

N/A

List Board President's Report Item A:

Recommend Board approval of the S-2392 Resolution Opposing Legislation Affecting Transmission of Property Tax Revenue to School Districts. (Attachment)

Details and Ramifications: Explained in resolution attached.

Positives: N/A

Concerns:

The tax levy in the proposed 2020-2021 budget is 50% of the revenue budgeted for the operating and debt service funds.

Other Comments:

Following adoption Board Secretary will mail to Senator Fred H. Madden, Assemblyman Paul D. Moriarty, and Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera.

Resolution Opposing Senate Bill 2392/Assembly Bill 3969
Legislation Affecting Transmission of Property Tax Revenue to School Districts

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2392 and Assembly Bill 3969, currently pending in the state Legislature, would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay or alter the transmission of property tax revenue to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs; and

WHEREAS, on average, local property taxes constitute close to 60% of public school revenue, with the percentage even greater in a significant number of districts; and

WHEREAS, delaying or altering the transmission of property tax revenue from municipalities would result in a financial crisis for school districts, seriously disrupting the educational process; and

WHEREAS, although public school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of our students is taking place through remote instruction and, therefore, continued timely transmission of all property tax revenue due to the school district is critical for the educational process to continue without interruption; and

WHEREAS, under our state's current structure, municipalities are designated as the authorities to collect property taxes, but those taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met; and

WHEREAS, municipal governing bodies are empowered under current law to borrow in order to ensure that full payments to school districts are made;

WHEREAS, the Glassboro Board of Education recognizes the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts, but believes that this legislation would only worsen the situation for our communities; and

WHEREAS, while S-2392/A-3969 would require a municipality to pay a percentage of the revenue due to a school district based on consultation between the state Departments of Community Affairs and Education, the amount of taxes collected at the time and the financial condition of the municipality and school district, it does not address subsequent payment to the school district to make up the full shortfall amount; and

WHEREAS, as currently written, S-2392/A-3969, which is designed to ease a financial burden on municipalities, would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and families that they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Glassboro Board of Education urges the State Legislature and Governor to oppose S-2392/A-3969; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Philip D. Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and the Glassboro Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Adopted: May 27, 2020
