

**Resolution Calling for the General Assembly to Provide  
Critical Support and Mandate Relief  
Benefitting Public Schools and Students**

**By the Board of Directors of the  
Schuylkill Valley School District**

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania's more than 1.7 million public school students deserve the highest quality education; and the state's public schools work best when they have the resources to give all students the opportunities they need to succeed, meet prescribed standards, support adequacy and promote equity; and

**WHEREAS**, the unexpected closure of school buildings beginning in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic has forced unparalleled challenges upon school districts to stretch funding to meet the needs of students and families with meals, online education programs, technical resources and other needs; and in addition to these unbudgeted expenses, school districts are required to continue paying operational bills, including the costliest expenses such as salaries, pensions, and charter school tuition; and

**WHEREAS**, mandated school district costs have eclipsed state funding increases; and the Schuylkill Valley School District's mandated costs, which include pension and charter school tuition among other expenses, have increased by \$4,947,204 from 2010-11 through 2017-2018; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the economic implications of this pandemic, school districts statewide face declining local revenue collection that is projected at more than \$325 million in 2019-20 and as much as an additional \$1 billion in local revenue in 2020-21; and the Schuylkill Valley School District is facing projected local deficits ranging from \$817,970 to \$1,192,000; and school districts need adequate support from the General Assembly as they continue to navigate these developing situations; and

**WHEREAS**, as school districts must confront numerous challenges in order to re-open schools, they face difficult decisions about how to allocate declining financial resources to sustain high-quality instruction and other essential services with the physical and mental health and safety of their students in mind; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts could realize cost savings through the enactment of broad, long-term relief from unfunded and underfunded mandates that consume much of district budgets; and one specific solution is the enactment of a permanent mandate waiver program that could provide significant savings, both in terms of dollars and efficiency, as well as reduce the number of burdensome mandates placed on schools.

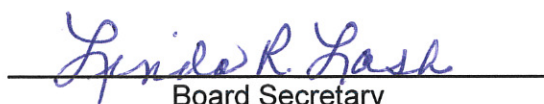
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Schuylkill Valley School Board calls upon the General Assembly to provide critical support and costs savings to school districts through approval of a permanent mandate waiver program which would enable districts to improve instructional programs or operate in a more effective, efficient and economical manner.

Adopted this 22nd day of June, 2020.

Signed,



School Board President



Board Secretary