

**Board of Education
Worthington City School District
Franklin County Ohio**

The Board of Education of the Worthington City School District, Franklin County, Ohio, met in regular session on March 10, 2025 at the Worthington Education Center, 200 East Wilson Bridge Road, Worthington, OH with the following members present:

Mrs. Jennifer Best
Mrs. Kelli Davis
Mrs. Amber Epling-Skinner
Ms. Stephanie Harless
Mrs. Nikki Hudson

Ms. Harless introduced the following resolution and moved its passage:

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio funds public education through a partnership between state and local resources, with the intent of distributing funds based on student needs and community financial capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Constitution requires the General Assembly to provide enough funding to secure a “thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State;” and

WHEREAS, a group of school superintendents and treasurers led by State Representatives Robert Cupp and Jon Patterson developed the Fair School Funding plan that included a number of recommendations to meet the Constitutional mandate; and

WHEREAS, the 134th Ohio General Assembly passed into law a six-year phase-in of the Fair School Funding Plan and appropriated funding, which amounted to one-third of the cost of full implementation of the plan, and the 135th Ohio General Assembly passed into law a budget that continued the phase-in for years three and four of the six-year phase-in; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeWine proposed a biennial budget, introduced as House Bill 96, that continues to phase in the funding of the Fair School Funding Plan, and we are grateful for the Governor’s leadership on continuing the full phase-in of the Fair School Funding Plan; however, the Governor’s proposal uses FY2022 inputs to determine base cost funding, failing to reflect current education expenses and economic realities; the state share of the base cost decreases for 87% of the state’s more than 600 public school districts in the first year, and for the 83.1% of school districts in the second year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed funding model results in a reduction of Worthington’s state funding share from 18.9% to 10%, leading to a projected loss of approximately \$2.2 million in state funding in the first year and an additional \$0.3 million in the second year; and

WHEREAS, with the projected \$2.2 million loss for Worthington Schools equating to an estimated 2/3 mill increase in local property taxes, it may require our community to consider a larger levy to sustain current operations, further shifting the share of the cost of public education onto local residents in the form of higher property taxes; and

WHEREAS, Worthington Schools has experienced stable or increasing student enrollment since 2020, yet its share of state funding is projected to decrease significantly under the Governor’s newly proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, Auditor of State Keith Faber recognized Worthington Schools with the Award with Distinction for strong fiscal management, recognizing our commitment to financial stewardship and planning; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 920 restricts the district's ability to collect additional revenue from rising property values since Worthington is not at the 20-mill floor, preventing a natural increase in local funding to offset state reductions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Worthington Schools Board of Education formally opposes the provisions of House Bill 96 and the Governor's budget proposal that result in a disproportionate reduction in state funding to Worthington Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board reaffirms its commitment to free accessible public schools which are adequately and equitably funded to guarantee a comparable education for all children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board requests that the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor of Ohio commit to fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan as it was initially recommended including the use of current inputs, ensuring that state funding shares do not disproportionately shift financial responsibility onto local taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will actively engage with legislative representatives, education associations, and community stakeholders to advocate for a fair and a sustainable school funding model that provides equitable support for all districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer is authorized to deliver or cause to be delivered a copy of this Resolution to House Speaker Matt Huffman; House Minority Leader Allison Russo; Senate President Rob McColley; Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio; Representative Sarah Fowler Arthur, Chair of the House Education Committee; Representative Phillip Robinson, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Education Committee; Senator Andrew Brenner, Chair of the Senate Education Committee; Senator Catherine Ingram, Ranking Member of the Senate Education Committee; Representative Brian Stewart, Chair of the House Finance Committee; Representative Michael Dovilla, Vice-Chair of the House Finance Committee; Representative Bride Rose Sweeney, Ranking Member of the House Finance Committee; Representative members of the House Finance Committee; Senate members of the Senate Finance Committee; Senate members of the Senate Education Committee; Representative Dr. Anita Somani; Senator Dr. Beth Liston; and to the office of Governor Mike DeWine.

Mrs. Hudson seconded the motion, and after discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the results were:

Ayes: Best, Davis, Epling-Skinner, Harless, Hudson

Nays: None

The resolution passed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

Attest: Tom J. Cunniff

Treasurer

By: Kellie Davis

President