

Colts Neck Township Schools

Superintendent of Schools

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Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Vincent S. Marasco

It was moved by Angelique Volpe, seconded by Robert Scales and carried on a roll call vote to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, through mandates imposed by the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) and subsequent judicial rulings, has required municipalities, including Colts Neck Township, to facilitate the development of affordable housing units without sufficient consideration of the impacts on local school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Livana Square development is situated on an environmentally sensitive site near the Yellow Brook, which flows into the Swimming River Reservoir. The township committee, planning board, and county commission have failed to conduct a thorough assessment of the potential impacts on the existing water supply, which could directly affect the students of the Colts Neck School District. A failure in the wastewater system could compromise the drinking water supply, endangering not only our students but also more than 300,000 residents of Monmouth County; and

WHEREAS, these mandates fail to account for the strain that additional housing developments will place on our school system, including increased student enrollment, overcrowding, and the financial burden on local taxpayers to fund necessary expansions, faculty hiring, and educational resources; and

WHEREAS, the financial responsibility for accommodating increased school-aged populations due to these developments is unfairly placed upon local property taxpayers, with no corresponding increase in state aid to offset the costs of additional students, infrastructure, and educational services; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of Colts Neck has failed to provide adequate transparency, detailed fiscal analysis, and meaningful opportunities for public engagement regarding the long-term financial and educational impacts of these housing mandates on our schools and community; and

WHEREAS, the lack of open communication and clear planning from our local government leaves the school district and taxpayers without a clear understanding of the full consequences of these state-imposed policies; and

WHEREAS, as the elected representatives entrusted with ensuring the highest quality education for the children of Colts Neck Township, this Board has an obligation to advocate for policies that protect both educational excellence and fiscal responsibility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colts Neck Board of Education hereby expresses its deep disappointment in the affordable housing mandates imposed by the State of New Jersey, which

disregard the financial and operational burdens placed upon local school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that while this Board remains grateful for the Township Committee's shared-services initiatives and dedication to our schools, we urge greater transparency and proactive engagement with the public, including detailed impact studies, fiscal projections, and collaborative planning with the Board of Education to address the consequences of increased development on our schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Colts Neck Board of Education acknowledges and appreciates the Colts Neck Township Committee's Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution submitted on January 29th, 2025, we encourage the Township Committee to engage other impacted stakeholders and expand their reach on future resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board urges state legislators and the Governor's Office to reassess these unfunded mandates and develop a fair, fiscally responsible approach to affordable housing that accounts for the infrastructure and educational costs borne by municipalities and school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township Committee of Colts Neck, our state and county legislative representatives, Governor Phil Murphy, the NJ Commissioner of Education, the US Housing and Urban Development Department, the office of the President of the United States, and other relevant stakeholders.

Yes: Phyllis Camera, Sara Horowitz, Jason Orrico, Vincent Rugnetta, Robert Scales, Brian Scarpa, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: Jessica Ramirez (remote)

Absent: None

This is to Certify that the above is a true and accurate copy excerpted from the Minutes of the Colts Neck Township Board of Education meeting held on February 5, 2025.



Vincent S. Marasco
Business Administrator/Board Secretary