



CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL
SCHOOL BOARD

Patricia Brigham
Chair

WHEREAS, for all Maine children and youth to reach the high educational standards that will allow them to succeed in school, work and life, the State of Maine must commit adequate resources to schools so they can comply with state and federal law; and

Linda Winker
Vice-Chair

WHEREAS, emerging from the national recession requires that Maine make smart choices today that will avoid deepening our recession and hurting our state's capacity to recover and expand; and

Karen Burke

Peter Cotter

Rebecca Millett

Katharine Ray

Mary Townsend

WHEREAS, there is an undeniable correlation between success in school, earnings potential and economic growth; and

Alan H. Hawkins
Board Secretary
Superintendent of Schools

WHEREAS, Maine law requires the state share of Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding in FY 09 to equal 55%, and the current curtailment reduces the state share to 45% statewide and to just 10.94% in Cape Elizabeth; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's curtailment order further exacerbates the inequity in the state versus local share of public education funding; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Order Curtailing Allotments for FY 2009 – 2010 by \$63,144,713, \$38 million of which is from General Purpose Aid to Maine school districts representing the single biggest cut of state funds; and

WHEREAS, \$4,500 represents the only other cut to the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Cape Elizabeth stands to lose \$621,440 in addition to the \$504,339 cut in the original General Purpose Aid allocation as a result of the elimination of these resources; and

WHEREAS, this curtailment and the projected additional State funding cut to General Purpose Aid for FY 2010 – 2011 will result in a 50% cut in state funding over a one year period (77% without federal stimulus funds) for Cape Elizabeth public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Cape Elizabeth School District has taken very proactive cost-cutting measures to improve efficiency while supporting student performance to do its part to help minimize the impact on taxpayers during this economic recession; and

WHEREAS, the curtailment to General Purpose Aid poses a grave threat to Maine's School Districts' ability to increasing student achievement and meet federally mandated NCLB requirements, which will put state schools at risk of being labeled a 'failing schools';

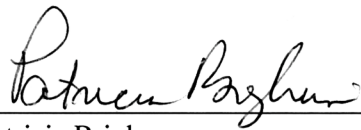
BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and State Legislature must provide adequate and stable basic education funding for our schools by:

- Maintaining a minimum state funding level of no less than 20% of a school district's EPS expenditure level,
- Re-evaluating the allotment curtailment to reduce the impact on direct education programs, which have been asked to absorb the largest portion of the cut.
- Supporting established state goals regarding efficiency in school administration and excellence in student performance by rewarding and not penalizing schools that are already performing at a high level with low administrative costs.
- Recognizing that strong schools will be critical to the economic recovery of our state and nation, and the current fragile state of that recovery, and understanding that cuts that come directly out of our communities work in opposition to the need for rapid recovery.

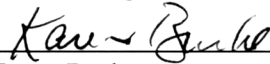
BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon citizens of Cape Elizabeth to help school districts obtain adequate and stable basic education funding by contacting state legislators and the Governor and expressing the urgency of this funding crisis and inequity of the current cuts.

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to all local newspapers, to Cape Elizabeth's elected State Senators and Representatives, to the leaders of the Legislature, to the chairmen of the Education and Appropriations Committees, and to the Governor of Maine.

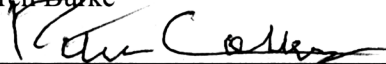
ADOPTED by Cape Elizabeth School Board at the meeting of November 23, 2009.



Patricia Brigham



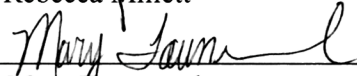
Karen Burke



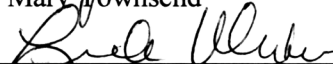
Peter Cotter



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