



Board of Education Meeting - Agenda Item

**Agenda Item Details**

Meeting Nov 17, 2020 - REGULAR BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

Category 9. Board Matters

Subject 9.2 A Resolution to Endorse the Fair School Funding Plan and to Encourage the 133rd General Assembly to Expedite the Consideration of Legislation Enacting the Same

Access Public

Type Action, Presentation

**Public Content**

A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING PLAN AND TO ENCOURAGE THE 133RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXPEDITE THE CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION ENACTING THE SAME

WHEREAS, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in *DeRolph v. State of Ohio* (1997) that Ohio's method for funding schools through the state's school foundation program was unconstitutional under Article VI, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in *DeRolph*, the Ohio Supreme Court declared that Ohio's school funding system was over-reliant on local property taxes, and as such, was inherently discriminatory to children based on where they reside for disparities exist between communities of affluence and impoverishment; and

WHEREAS, since the *DeRolph* decision, the Ohio General Assembly has failed to create a funding system that meets Ohio's constitutional standard of securing "... a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state"; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's previous biennial budget crafted by the 132<sup>nd</sup> Ohio General Assembly, and effective July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, created a funding system with "capped" districts, and districts receiving a minimum level of funding referred to as the "guarantee"; and

WHEREAS, the previous biennial budget identified 503 school districts out of 610, or 82 percent, either "capped" in their funding, or on the "guarantee," which is a testament that Ohio's funding model is not effective and which has cost the district approximately \$90 million in the previous fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's current biennial budget crafted by the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, froze foundation funding for Ohio schools at 2019 fiscal year levels (effectively placing all districts on "the guarantee"), which funding levels have subsequently been cut due to the economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the current school funding system in Ohio lacks a rational basis for determining both the cost of educating students and how the funding of education is shared between the state and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Representative Robert Cupp (R) and Representative John Patterson (D) convened a statewide workgroup, made up of eight practicing school district CFO/Treasurers and eight practicing Superintendents (the "Workgroup"), to devise a new formula, and recognizing that Ohio needs an overhaul to its school funding system, have spent the last three years determining the inputs necessary to fund a "thorough and efficient system of common schools" that reduces the over-reliance on local property tax and creates equity in the state foundation system; and

WHEREAS, the Workgroup carefully analyzed national research, best practices, actual Ohio school district spending data, and drew on their own extensive experience in educating students and operating school districts to make recommendations for a school funding system that meets the needs of all Ohio's students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and

WHEREAS, the Workgroup developed recommendations that laid out a rational, transparent, comprehensive and - most of all - fair system for funding schools based on the actual cost of providing a basic education for all students in Ohio (the "Base Cost"); and

WHEREAS, the Workgroup identified and provided a framework for providing additional resources to meet needs beyond those of basic education, including the areas of the social, emotional, safety, and mental health of students, the additional challenges driven by students living in poverty, with special needs, with limited English proficiency, and who are academically gifted; and

WHEREAS, the Workgroup developed recommendations to eliminate deductions for community (charter) schools and scholarship (voucher) programs, directly funding students where they are educated; and

WHEREAS, based on the laudable research and work outlined above, the Workgroup produced and recommended the Fair School Funding Plan, which was introduced in House Bill (H.B.) 305, and is currently incorporated into and improved upon in a companion bill in the Senate, Senate Bill (S.B.) 376; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor of Ohio have an opportunity to devise and enact a substantially improved funding formula, as outlined in the Fair School Funding Plan, that is an investment in Ohio's children and Ohio's future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Columbus City Schools' Board of Education ("the Board") strongly endorses the framework of the Fair School Funding Plan and requests that the Ohio General Assembly expeditiously consider H.B. 305 and S.B. 376; and be it further

RESOLVED that, if necessary during the legislative process, the Board directs the Superintendent to continue to work on behalf of the District on any additional language related to reform of the current school funding system and implementation of the tenets of the Fair School Funding Plan; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to advocate for the proposed actions contained herein to the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor of the State of Ohio.

## **Executive Content**

### Mission Statement

Each student is highly-educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.