

WHEREAS school districts in New York are facing the prospect of reopening for the 2020-2021 school year during an historic and dangerous pandemic, and

WHEREAS to open safely, school districts must purchase additional technology, and safety and medical equipment among other materials, provide additional training for staff and personnel, and

WHEREAS school districts will change their manner of operations, entailing additional spending, including having staff work overtime to keep buildings sanitized, increasing bus runs to safely transport students, and addressing student, staff and family social emotional and mental health needs with additional support, and

WHEREAS all children, including those with disabilities and English language learners, are entitled a free and appropriate public education under federal and New York State law, and

WHEREAS the safety and health of students and staff must be the cornerstone of our educational system and are vital to the health and future of our country, and

WHEREAS the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District has enacted, with the approval of the voters of the district, a budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year that is predicated on the receipt of State aid in excess of \$5 million as well as revenues from property taxes and Westchester County sales taxes, upon which the district has determined its budgeted expenditures, and

WHEREAS the State of New York (and other states) are suffering severe contraction of revenues that are utilized to fund public education, and

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of New York has stated that, unless the federal government provides substantial economic support for public education, the State of New York may be compelled to reduce, by as much as twenty percent (20%), the amount of State aid to be provided to the district, and

WHEREAS the loss of district revenues, including the amount of State aid, will force the district to reduce expenditures at a time at which the district faces additional, unanticipated costs, and

WHEREAS these circumstances would have a crippling effect on the education of the students of the district, and

WHEREAS every school district in New York State (and throughout the nation) face these same circumstances,

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Education of the Croton Harmon Union Free School District urges the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to enact legislation providing immediate, substantial and specific funding assistance to states and localities for public education, including funding assistance for the provision of educational services to students under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District shall seek to collaborate with other like-minded school district agencies or organizations supporting public education to express these concerns publicly and to advocate for adequate additional financial assistance for public education.

The Board of Education directs the District Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the following persons:

- Donald J. Trump, President of the United States
- Charles Schumer, United States Senator

- Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator
- Nita Lowey, Member, United States House of Representatives
- Sandra Galef, State Assemblywoman
- Peter Harckham, State Senator
- Andrew Cuomo, the Governor of the State of New York
- Carl Heastie, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly
- Andrea Stuart-Cousins, the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate
- Shelly B. Mayer, New York State Senate, Chair, Committee on Education
- Michael Benedetto, New York State Assembly, Chair, Standing Committee on Education
- Frances Wills, NYS Board of Regents
- T. Andrew Brown, Vice Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents
- Betty Rosa, Interim NYS Commissioner of Education
- Robert S. Schneider, Executive Director, New York State School Boards Association
- Karen Belanger, Executive Director, Westchester Putnam School Boards Association

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DATE: August 11, 2020