

**Resolution to Oppose the Approval of Michigan SB 574, Which Would Divert Funding from County Enhancement Millages from Traditional Public Schools to Charter Schools; Urge House Representatives to vote “No” on the Companion House Bill; Recommend that the Michigan legislature establish measures of public accountability for Charter Schools.**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Ann Arbor Public Schools held at Allen Elementary School, 2560 Towner, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, held on the 25th day of October, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time.

The meeting was called to order by member Stead.

PRESENT: Members: Baskett, Gaynor, Kelly, Lightfoot, Manley, Mitchell (via telephone), Stead.

ABSENT: Members: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Gaynor and supported by Member Baskett.

**WHEREAS** the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education believes that maintaining strong and financially secure public schools is the best route to providing equal opportunity to all; and

**WHEREAS** the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education believes that public schools, being funded by public money, must be held accountable to the public; and

**WHEREAS** charter schools have significantly less operating costs (lower salaries, no or less pension obligations, no or less transportation costs, etc.) and virtual schools have fewer facility and staffing costs relative to traditional public schools; and

**WHEREAS** about 83 percent of Michigan charter schools are private for-profit businesses with little or no financial transparency, and are operated by boards of directors that are appointed by those chartering the schools, not elected, and are therefore not accountable to the public; and

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Senate, on October 18, 2017, passed SB 574, which would require money raised from county enhancement millages to be shared with charter and virtual schools that are headquartered within the millage region; and

**WHEREAS** SB 574 would grant public money to private charter companies that are unaccountable to the public; and

**WHEREAS** the language of SB 574 is ambiguous and could be interpreted to refer to current millages, thereby changing the allocation of their revenue a posteriori; and

**WHEREAS** state funding in Michigan has already put traditional public schools at significant financial and operating risk by diverting those funds to private for-profit charter schools; and

**WHEREAS** SB 574 would divert a larger share of millage funding from traditional public schools in districts with the greatest needs, i.e., urban districts, which have the highest concentration of charter schools and lowest tax payment capacity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

The Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education:

- Opposes SB 574 and any similar bill that transfers money away from traditional public schools that are held accountable to the public for their policies;
- Urges all Michigan Representatives in the House to vote “no” on the companion bill to SB 574;
- Urges the House and Senate to require the same stringent public accountability measures, for charter schools as it does for traditional public schools, including financial and academic standards;
- Urges Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to veto any bill that diverts money from enhanced millages from traditional public schools;
- Urges that the legislature consider the Michigan Education Finance Study, the upcoming study commissioned by the School Finance Research Collaborative, and matters of equity when deliberating over education funding;
- Directs the Executive Assistant of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education to transmit copies of this resolution to:

Rick Snyder, Governor of Michigan

All Michigan State Senators and Representatives

Brian J Whiston, State Superintendent (Michigan)

All members of the State Board of Education (Michigan)

Brenda Carter, President, Michigan Association of School Boards

Don Wortuba, Executive Director, Michigan Association of School Boards

Michele Lemire, President, Michigan Association of School Administrators  
Paula Herbart, President, Michigan Education Association  
Local print, voice, and Internet media

Ayes: Baskett, Gaynor, Kelly, Lightfoot, Manley, Mitchell, Stead

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted.

  
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Jeffrey Gaynor, Secretary  
AAPS Board of Education

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Public Schools of the City of Ann Arbor, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on October 25, 2017, and that the meeting was conducted and public notice of the meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, and that the minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by the Act.

  
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Jeffrey Gaynor, Secretary  
AAPS Board of Education