

RESOLUTION
VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TO REQUEST THE REFORM OF
NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

Trustee Mellon presented the following resolution which was seconded by
Trustee Aylward.

WHEREAS, New York State is one of only twelve states that continue to fund public schools through property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the greatest financial hurdle faced by homeowners in the State is the onerous burden of school taxes; and

WHEREAS, that burden has forced innumerable New Yorkers, including many of those transitioning to retirement on a fixed income, to sell their properties and move from the State; and

WHEREAS, most states fund public schools through sales taxes and state income taxes (both corporate and personal) and other possible avenues of funding include mortgage taxes and excess profits taxes, all of which should be considered as more equitable and less burdensome alternatives to the school property tax method in New York; and

WHEREAS, even the City of New York no longer funds its public schools through property taxes and, recognizing this as a matter of equity as well as hardship, and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid a “subsidy” by the residents of one region of another, the residents of the State of New York should either be afforded a credit or excluded from any funding alternative so that fair legislation can be enacted without opposition on that score; and

WHEREAS, responsibility for the education of our youth should be more fairly and equitably distributed and not placed solely on the backs of our property owners; and

WHEREAS, the two percent tax cap law enacted by New York State is proof that the Governor, Senate and Assembly are aware of this crisis, but it is only a band aid approach to a worsening problem; and

WHEREAS, a more permanent solution must be found for the sake of the survival of our State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls, in its capacity as the governing body of the Village hereby requests that Governor Andrew Cuomo, members of the New York State Senate and members of the New York State Assembly urgently address this crisis and enact reforms to school district funding in New York State that implement an equitable alternative funding system to the property tax; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we respectfully request that our New York State representatives, the Hon. William Larken Senator for the 39th Senate District and the Hon. James Skoufis, Assemblyman for the 99th Assembly District, advocate for the reforms hereby put forth and we thank them for their diligence in this matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Board hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute a letter substantially in the form annexed hereto on behalf of the Village Board addressed to the Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor requesting said reforms and to deliver such letter and certified copies of this Resolution to the Governor, Senator Larkin and Assemblyman Skoufis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing resolutions shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

<u>Trustee Aylward</u>	<u>voting</u>	<u>AYE</u>
<u>Trustee Farina</u>	<u>voting</u>	<u>AYE</u>
<u>Trustee Mellon</u>	<u>voting</u>	<u>AYE</u>
<u>Trustee Murphy</u>	<u>voting</u>	<u>AYE</u>
<u>Mayor Flynn</u>	<u>voting</u>	<u>AYE</u>

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Dated: January 4, 2016