

**UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
SCHOOL FUNDING RESOLUTION**

Whereas, Utica Community Schools (“UCS”) offers rigorous and innovative academic programs and sets high expectations for students and staff;

Whereas, UCS’s success is evidenced by a 92.4% graduation rate that exceeds the state average by 12 points, student achievement results that outpace state and national averages, nationally recognized schools and programs, and a 95% student attendance rate;

Whereas, for the past decade, a combination of stagnant per pupil funding and declining student enrollment has created enormous financial challenges for UCS and school districts throughout Michigan, prompting statewide teacher layoffs, drastic funding cuts, and reductions in fund equity;

Whereas, it has become increasingly difficult for UCS to provide high quality educational programs and services with minimal increases in state funding;

Whereas, over the past ten years, UCS’s per pupil foundation allowance has grown from \$7,624 to \$7,684, an increase of only \$60 per pupil or an average of \$6 per pupil annually;

Whereas, this minimal increase in state aid does not account for the rising costs of operating schools due to inflation and mandatory programs for special education and English language learners;

Whereas, this is a statewide problem that impacts 92 other school districts that have received foundation allowance increases substantially less than the minimum foundation districts;

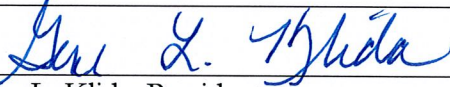
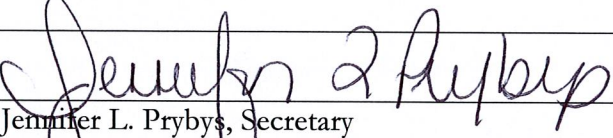
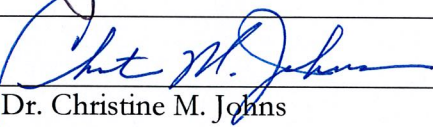
Whereas, the financial distress experienced by these school districts stems from the current formula used by state lawmakers to allocate funding for Michigan public schools;

Now therefore be it resolved, the UCS Board of Education (the “Board”), on behalf of its entire community of residents, parents, students, and staff, calls on lawmakers to immediately address these financial challenges through amendments to the State School Aid Act for the 2017-2018 school year.

Let it be further resolved, these amendments should include a restoration of funding losses from the \$470 per pupil reduction enacted in 2011-2012 for all school districts, the elimination of the 2x formula, and the use of a blended 50/50 count to calculate student enrollment for state aid purposes.

Let it be further resolved, the Board directs a copy of this resolution to be forwarded to the Governor’s office, state lawmakers representing UCS, Michigan Senate and House leadership, and Michigan Senate and House Appropriations chairs, and made available to UCS constituents.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.


Gene L. Klida, President Board of Education

Jennifer L. Prybys, Secretary Board of Education

Dr. Christine M. Johns Superintendent

January 23, 2017