

FOREST HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education of the Forest Hills School District, Hamilton County, Ohio met in regular session on April 16, 2025 at Mercer Elementary School, 2600 Bartels Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244 with the following members present:

Mr. Bob Bibb

Mr. Mark Bell

Mrs. Sara Jonas

Dr. Wendy Strickler

Dr. Strickler moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING PLAN

WHEREAS, the Ohio Constitution guarantees a "thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state" (Article VI, Section 2), and the Ohio Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that the state's school funding system must be both adequate and equitable; and

WHEREAS, the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) was designed by a group of superintendents and treasurers led by State Representatives Robert Cupp and Jon Patterson based on research-driven inputs to ensure all Ohio students receive the resources necessary for a high-quality education, regardless of their ZIP code; and

WHEREAS, the FSFP represents a bipartisan effort to address longstanding inequities in Ohio's school funding system by accurately determining the cost of educating a student, utilizing a base cost methodology that reflects actual district needs; and

WHEREAS, the current governor's state biennial budget proposal continues funding the FSFP but fail to update the base cost calculations, relying on outdated 2022 inputs that do not reflect current inflationary pressures, rising personnel costs, or evolving student needs and reduce base cost for 87% of the more than 600 public school districts in the first year and for 83.1% of school districts in the second year; and

WHEREAS, the House current state biennial budget proposal fails to support continued funding of the Fair School Funding Model, instead proposing a temporary foundation funding, which would disadvantage many public school districts long term by removing stability of funding and would not meet the true cost of educating children in Ohio

WHEREAS, The House current state biennial budget further would include a 30% cap of cash balance, which ignores the cyclical nature of levies that necessitate the buildup of reserves to maintain operations between levies. This cap negatively impacts a school districts' ability to maintain consistency and prepare for emergencies, and negatively impacts AAA bond ratings, causing further cost increases.

WHEREAS, Ohio's commitment to an equitable funding formula must include periodic updates to cost inputs and guarantee to ensure districts are receiving an accurate and fair allocation of state resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed governor's state budget would cut approximately \$2.8 million from Forest Hills School District's budget over the next five years, which would destabilize educational services, harm students, and undermine the intent of the FSFP by shifting financial burdens onto local taxpayers or forcing cuts to essential programs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed House's state budget appears to provide a slight increase, this version is not better for public schools as it removes stability and long-term could create an approximately \$2 million decrease in property tax collections over the next couple of years for FHSD due to the 30% cap which would send our District back to the ballot with increased frequency and undermine our ability to provide consistent services due to uncertainty of levy passages; and

WHEREAS, a fully implemented and regularly updated FSFP with a guarantee benefits all Ohio students by ensuring predictability, adequacy, and fairness in school funding allocations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forest Hills School District Board of Education:

1. Expresses strong support for the continued implementation and full funding of the Fair School Funding Plan, including the use of updated research-based cost inputs that reflect current economic conditions and student needs, and a guarantee that provides a consistent flow of revenue.
2. Rejects any proposals to cut funding from school districts currently receiving funding guarantees, as such actions would create financial instability and negatively impact students and communities.
3. Rejects any proposal to cap cash balance reserves that allow districts to maintain stability, respond in crisis, respond to unique needs within their district, maximize tax-payer dollars through AAA bond rating, and provide for sufficient levy planning, at which a floor of 30% currently indicates time to consider a levy and for which a 30% cap is being considered.
4. Calls upon the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor to uphold their commitment to fair and adequate school funding by ensuring that future biennial budgets continue fully funding the FSFP including the guarantee and updating cost calculations to reflect the actual cost of educating Ohio's

students.

5. Encourages fellow school districts, educational organizations, and community stakeholders to advocate for a fair school funding system that supports all Ohio students and does not pit districts against one another in a zero-sum funding model.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to members of the Ohio General Assembly, the Governor of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, and other relevant stakeholders to emphasize the need for continued investment in Ohio's students and public schools.

Mr. Bibb seconded the motion and the roll being called upon the question of the adoption of the Resolution, the vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Bell, Mr. Bibb, Dr. Strickler

Nays: Mrs. Jonas

Adopted this 16th day of April, 2025.

Attest:



Bob Bibb, Board President

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a meeting held on the 16th day of April, 2025, together with a true and correct extract from the minutes of said meeting to the extent pertinent to consideration and adoption of said resolution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alana Cropper", written over a horizontal line.

Alana Cropper, Treasurer