

**Resolution Supporting Prevailing Wage Reform, Allowing School Districts to Use a Single Prime Contractor for Construction and Renovation Projects, and Increased State Funding for School Construction and Renovation Projects**

**By the Board of School Directors of the Pleasant Valley School District**

**WHEREAS**, the PA Public School Code assigns local boards of school directors the duty to provide students with suitable school buildings that are constructed, furnished, equipped, and maintained in a proper manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction, renovation, and repair of school facilities to ensure that they meet the educational and safety needs of students and staff can be costly for school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, in these challenging economic times, the Prevailing Wage Act places a costly mandate on school districts and diverts valuable resources from our classrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts must pay state-mandated prevailing wage rates for workers on every construction or renovation project in which estimates exceed \$25,000, a number that has not been adjusted for 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, these prevailing wage rates are not reflective of the actual wage rates in the local community, and have actually been shown, in numerous studies, to inflate the cost of construction projects by at least 10%, siphoning millions of taxpayer dollars from the classroom each year; and

**WHEREAS**, as Pennsylvania school districts spent over \$7 billion on reimbursable school construction and renovation projects bid over the last decade, if school districts were to save 10% of the construction costs on these projects, it would have saved Pennsylvania taxpayers over \$700 million on these projects alone; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the importance of providing appropriate school facilities, to help school districts pay for a portion of the costs of school construction and renovation, the Department of Education developed the Planning and Construction Workbook, known as PlanCon, a system through which the Commonwealth reimburses school districts, based on need, for a share of their construction costs and oversees and approves a school district's school construction project at each step of the construction process; and

**WHEREAS**, the line item for the annual PlanCon reimbursements to school districts has been flat-funded at \$296 million since 2011-12 and has decreased by over \$30 million since 2009-10, resulting in a significant backlog of projects in the PlanCon pipeline and a significant delay in reimbursement; and

**WHEREAS**, this significant delay in state PlanCon reimbursement has created financial hardship for many school districts and the imposition of the state moratorium has created uncertainty for school districts that are in dire need of critical renovations or repairs to fix leaking roofs, failing mechanical and electrical systems, crumbling infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms, and ADA compliance concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, there is also a need to eliminate the requirement to have separate prime contractors for construction projects and steps must be taken to provide school districts the flexibility to determine whether a single or multiple prime delivery system provides the most efficient and cost-effective way to complete a project, including the opportunity for school districts to use a single prime contractor for construction and renovation projects, creating the potential to greatly reduce the administrative burden of managing a construction project, which serves to alleviate the drain on a school district's administrative

resources, while reducing the number of change orders on a project and reducing the cost and burden of schedule overruns and delays.

**WHEREAS**, school districts are facing reductions in education funding, declining local revenues, and increasing pension and special education costs, costly mandates limit a school district's ability to direct these limited resources to our classrooms where they are needed most; and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure that we are giving our students the education they deserve, school districts and local taxpayers need relief from these mandates that provide no educational value to students and do nothing to promote increases in student achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts need the flexibility to save valuable dollars that can be spent in the classroom; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pleasant Valley Board of School Directors urges the General Assembly to support prevailing wage reform that will alleviate the burden of the Prevailing Wage Act on school districts and provide flexibility in determining how best to spend limited resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Pleasant Valley Board of School Directors urges the General Assembly to uphold its responsibility to provide reimbursement to school districts engaging in needed school construction and renovation projects and to appropriately fund the program to ensure that school districts are reimbursed in a manner that is timely and predictable; and

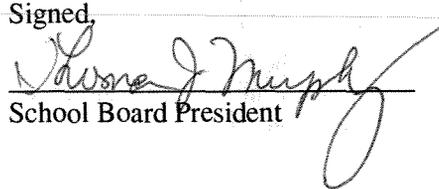
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Pleasant Valley Board of School Directors encourages the General Assembly to examine and revise the current PlanCon process to save resources for both school districts and the Department of Education while still maintaining a state reimbursement program that ensures the structural and educational integrity of school facilities; and

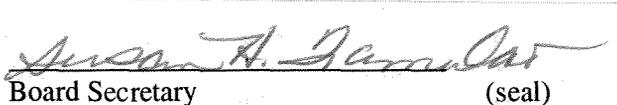
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Pleasant Valley Board of School Directors urges the General Assembly to eliminate the requirement to have separate prime contractors for construction projects and to take steps to provide school districts the flexibility to determine whether a single or multiple prime delivery system provides the most efficient and cost-effective way to complete a project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Pleasant Valley Board of School Directors will encourage others, including parents/guardians, students and school district taxpayers, to urge the Pennsylvania General Assembly to continue to take measures to alleviate the burden the Prevailing Wage Act has on school districts, to allow school districts to use a single prime contractor for construction and renovation projects, and to increase state funding for school construction and renovation projects; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be posted on the school district's website and submitted to the Governor of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, as well as to the elected state senators and representatives of the Pleasant Valley School District in the General Assembly.

Adopted this 23 day of May, 2013.

Signed,  
  
School Board President

Attest:  
  
Board Secretary (seal)