

JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT and the CITY OF RYE

Be it RESOLVED by the Rye City School District Board of Education and the Mayor and Council of the City of Rye, that we recommend the New York State Assembly reject a state property tax cap, unless concurrent and significant unfunded mandate relief is included in the legislation.

WHEREAS, New York State leads the nation in local property taxes, in large part because New York leads the nation in imposing unfunded state mandates upon local municipalities and school districts;

WHEREAS, by some studies, these unfunded mandates represent as much as 20% of the budgets of municipalities and school districts;

WHEREAS, the projected growth in pension and health insurance costs in 2011 and 2012 will far exceed the growth in property tax levies allowed under a cap, and that by 2014 employee benefit costs alone could consume or even exceed both the school district's and the city's entire permitted property tax levy increase;

WHEREAS, state laws such as the Triborough Amendment further impede the ability of the school district and the city to control costs by carrying forward certain costly prior contractual provisions, undermining the immediacy of conducting fair, realistic negotiations that are responsive to current economic conditions;

WHEREAS, the establishment of a 2% hard cap, as proposed by the Governor and approved in the State Senate, would ultimately require drastic cuts in essential local school district and city programs, services, and staffing that would compromise our residents expectations for quality of life;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rye City School District Board of Education and the Mayor and Council of the City of Rye strongly urge that the New York State Assembly reject the property tax cap approved by the State Senate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the establishment of any tax cap follow the reformation of current unfunded mandates and the restructuring of public pension benefits and the collective bargaining process in order to ensure that our school district and municipality do not suffer undue and unwanted cuts in services, programs and staffing.

Adopted by the Rye City School District Board of Education on April 12, 2011.

Adopted by the Rye City Council on April 13, 2011.