

Resolution urging the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania General Assembly and Governor to fulfill its PlanCon reimbursement obligation.

WHEREAS, the statutory requirements of the PlanCon process as found in Articles VII and XXV of the Pennsylvania School Code, requiring school districts to obtain PDE approval as a prerequisite to entering into a contract for a construction project and receiving commonwealth reimbursement for that project provides that no public school building shall be contracted for, constructed, or reconstructed in any school district until plans and specifications have been approved (24 P.S. 7-731); the Pennsylvania School Code further mandates that only those projects that are PDE approved will receive commonwealth reimbursement (24P.S. § 25-2574); and

WHEREAS, school districts have a duty to provide their students with suitable facilities that are properly constructed, furnished, equipped, and maintained in order to meet the educational and safety needs of students and staff; and many school districts have undertaken construction or renovation projects because of enrollment or safety needs that cannot be ignored; and

WHEREAS, Act 34 of the State Board of Education has promulgated a complex set of standards and regulatory requirements to which school construction projects must conform; the Pennsylvania Department of Education has developed this cumbersome multi-step process that increases project costs, inefficiency, and time of school construction with antiquated requirements, and as such, increased the burden to local school districts and residents; and

WHEREAS, contrary to Act 34 and the PlanCon promise of reimbursement to school districts, residents bear an unnecessary and burdensome responsibility to fund the commonwealth's failure to meet its obligations; for the past two school years PlanCon funding was not dispersed according to the agreed upon terms; and

WHEREAS, this failed funding promise effectively harms the ability of school districts to adequately and justly provide basic educational resources; the Plum Borough School District has cut essential teachers and support staff, reduced student services, delayed necessary capital projects, eliminated valuable extracurricular and curricular activities, and depleted our entire financial reserves; our two year revenue shortfall of \$2,324,185.20 is due to the lack of reliable and fair distribution of state education funds; and

WHEREAS, the Plum Borough School District stresses the timely disbursement of owed PlanCon funding as detailed in Act 34 and the Pennsylvania School Code; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Plum Borough School District urges the General Assembly and Governor to release PlanCon funds as promised.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Plum Borough School District will encourage others, including neighboring school boards, superintendents, parents, and district taxpayers, to contact the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Governor of Pennsylvania to convey the importance of honoring their financial obligation to its residents and children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be posted to the district's website, shared with local districts and submitted to the elected Senators and Representatives of the Plum Borough School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this 27th day of April 2016.

Signed,

School Board President

Board Secretary

(seal)