

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGISLATION THAT ELIMINATES SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE UPPER MERION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly previously considered HB/SB 76 that would eliminate school property taxes throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of Upper Merion Area School District is aware that similar provisions to HB/SB 76 are again being contemplated by the Pennsylvania Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the school property tax under this proposed legislation would severely degrade educational programs and services, and eliminate local control of the School District by the citizens of Bridgeport, Upper Merion and West Conshohocken; and

WHEREAS, the proposed property tax elimination shifts the tax burden from the Upper Merion Area business community to citizens of Bridgeport, Upper Merion and West Conshohocken; and

WHEREAS, after eliminating the predictable and controllable school property taxes, the State would fund schools by raising personal income tax by over 60% and increase the sales tax to 7%, including taxing items previously excluded, including, but not limited to, such things as food, clothing, personal services, and more; and

WHEREAS, the county and municipal governments will continue to be permitted to levy a property tax even if the school property tax is eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has failed to, and continues to fail to address how a school district is to fund the numerous unfunded state and federal mandates, the pension costs, charter school costs, special education costs, and Keystone graduation requirements; and

WHEREAS, the passage of such property tax elimination legislation would have a devastating impact on the educational programming and services in Upper Merion Area School District including the ability to construct and staff the new Gulph Elementary School and construct a new High School; the ability to maintain smaller class sizes, implement full day kindergarten throughout the district, and provide and expand necessary educational programming; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of School Directors of the Upper Merion Area School District, strongly oppose the General Assembly's contemplation of any legislation of similar substance, content, or form to HB/SB 76 that would eliminate local control of school property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Board of School Directors of the Upper Merion Area School District call upon the General Assembly to explore alternative funding legislation that provides tax relief to tax payers without sacrificing local control and threatening the educational programming provided to our children.

Approved February 6, 2017

Eric Elvanian, Board President

Board Secretary