The SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF YORK

"Great Expectations: Failure is Not an Option"

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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Board of School Directors

Resolution supporting substantial charter school funding and accountability reform by the Board of School Directors of the School District of the City of York

WHEREAS, broad state oversight of public school financing is mandated, similar requirements are not mandated for charter schools to ensure fiscal transparency and accountability

WHEREAS, the current funding formula for charter schools is not linked to actual cost of education for regular and special education incurred by the charter school. It allows charter schools to selectively choose mildly disabled students and charge school districts the average cost of all disabled students. Furthermore, the funding formula for Cyber schools bears no relationship to the actual instructional costs of the distance learning program. The funding formula also ignores the cost of additional state mandates imposed on public schools and additional services provided by public schools;

WHEREAS, students do not leave school districts to attend charter schools in large groups within the same age range and therefore school districts are unable to proportionately reduce their budgets since fixed costs and infrastructure costs remain the same when students opt to enroll in a charter school;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's reimbursement to school districts for students attending charter cyber charter schools has been completely eliminated in the 2011-2012 budget;

WHEREAS, school district expenditures for students attending charter schools has increased by $332.5 million between 2003-2004 and 2007-2008, and in 2009-2010 school districts paid $795 million to charter schools.

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of York's charter school expenditures for the past 6 years reflect extraordinary costs that were borne by its taxpayers as follows:

School Year	District Expenditures	State Reimbursement
2006-2007	$5,381,005.00	$1,469,113.00
2007-2008	$6,782,442.00	$1,649,423.00
2008-2009	$10,078,858.00	$3,177,379.00
2009-2010	$14,498,850.00	$3,735,733.00
2010-2011	$17,306,804.00	$4,594,141.00
2011-2012	$23,536,456.00	$0.00
	$77,584,415.00	$14,625,789.00

WHEREAS, the Auditor General of the Commonwealth issued a special report on charter and cyber charter school funding in September 2010 which outlined recommendations for addressing disparities with the Pennsylvania charter school funding formula, specifically advising that the Governor and Pennsylvania General Assembly, with leadership from PDE and in consultation with impacted charter schools and school districts, should review the current formulas for calculating tuition at charter schools.

WHEREAS, charter schools have a mixed performance record, and cyber charter schools consistently underperform public schools, there are no academic performance targets or required corrective actions when such targets are not met, and charter school operators can be approved or renewed without a track record of academic success;

In Summary, the core concerns regarding charter schools, include funding, oversight, fiscal transparency and academic accountability, are not being addressed in the current Charter Reform measures being considered, and in fact, the current proposals could make some of these longstanding concerns worse.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School District of the City of York Board urges its elected officials to support any legislation that relieves the financial burden on school districts created by charter schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School District of the City of York Board directs its Board President to take immediate action to alert it's district's state legislators about its position on this legislation and provide a copy of this resolution to them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School District of the City of York will encourage others including parents and teachers to contact the Pennsylvania General Assembly to support this legislation.

Adopted this 25th day of January, 2012.

Signed,

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School Board President Board Secretary

(SEAL)