

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

R-23-2018

RESOLUTION SEEKING REINSTATEMENT OF SECTION 7002 FEDERAL IMPACT AID FUNDING

WHEREAS, since 1950, Section 7002 Federal Impact Aid Funding is made available to school districts that have experienced a loss of 10% or more of its tax ratables due to the acquisition of taxable land for public use by the federal government since 1939 – funds that were promised to our community when the property was acquired by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School and Kittatinny Regional High School have more than 18,000 acres of federally owned property within its district which was acquired by the federal government for the Tocks Island Dam Project and is now part of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, Section 7002 Federal Impact Aid Funding has been eliminated from the President Trump's 2019 federal budget proposal; and

WHEREAS, Section 7002 Federal Impact Aid Funding is critical to our school district as the Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School and Kittatinny Regional High School each receive approximately \$350,000 in impact aid funding. It is extremely important to remember New Jersey law limits the increase in property taxes for local schools to 2% and the loss of Impact Aid cannot be made up by increasing local taxes without voter approval.


WHEREAS, the impact aid funds are used to pay for teachers, materials, equipment, computers, teacher training, etc., and elimination of these obligated federal funds would be devastating to our children, school district and community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston requests the reinstatement of Section 7002 Federal Impact Aid Funding into the 2019 Federal Budget, without delay, through the support of the newest "Dear Colleague Letter in the House and Senate", and opposition to attempts to re-purpose Impact Aid into Educational Savings Accounts, which have been introduced in S.2517 and H.R. 5199, and opposition to any attempt to create other similar voucher-type programs that threaten the Impact Aid program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to Impact Aid Program, Marilyn Hall, United States Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington DC 20202; State of New Jersey, Department of Education, Rosalie Lamonte, PhD, Executive County Superintendent, 262 White Lake Road, Sparta, NJ 07871; Dr. Jeanne Apyrasz, Superintendent, Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School; Craig Hutcheson, Superintendent, Kittatinny Regional High School; Honorable Senator Cory A. Booker; Honorable Senator Robert Menendez; Honorable Congressman Josh Gottheimer; Honorable Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen; Honorable Steven V. Oroho; Honorable Parker Space; Honorable Harold J. Wirths; Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, ATTN: Director Jonathan Rose

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and certified copy of the resolution adopted by the Sandyston Township Committee at the regularly scheduled meeting held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm, at the Sandyston Township Municipal Building, 133 Route 645, Sandyston, New Jersey.


Amanda F. Lobban, RMC
Municipal Clerk



SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

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March 14, 2018

U.S. Congressman Josh Gottheimer
93 Spring Street, Suite 408
Newton, NJ 07860

U.S. Senator Cory Booker
One Gateway Center, Suite 2300
11-43 Raymond Plaza West
Newark, NJ 07102

U.S. Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
30 Schuyler Place, 2nd Floor
Morristown, NJ 07960

U.S. Senator Robert Menendez
One Gateway Center, 11th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Gentlemen:

We write you today with concerns over the elimination of Section 7002 Federal Impact Aid Funding from the 2019 Federal Budget.

As you are aware, since 1950, Section 7002 funding is made available to school districts that have experienced a loss of 10% or more of its tax ratables due to the acquisition of taxable land for public use by the federal government since 1939. This is the case for the Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School and Kittatinny Regional High School as there is more than 18,000 acres of federally owned property within its district which was acquired by the federal government for the Tocks Island Dam Project and is now part of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

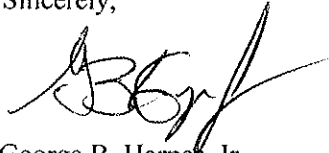
Several years ago, school officials worked extremely hard to secure Impact Aid; funds that were promised to the community when the land was taken by the federal government. Each year, representatives from Sandyston-Walpack and Kittatinny Regional High School have struggled to keep Section 7002 Federal Impact Aid Funding for our district, only to see a decline in funding.

Each year, Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School and Kittatinny Regional High School received approximately \$350,000. Please remember, New Jersey law limits the increase in property taxes for local schools to 2% and the loss of Impact Aid cannot be made up by increasing local taxes. This funding is critical to our school district and we hope you agree that the elimination of these funds would be devastating to our children, school district and community.

With this in mind, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston passed the enclosed Resolution at our March 13, 2018 meeting seeking your help in reinstating Section 7002 Federal Impact Aid Funding. We ask you do what you can do to reinstate Section 7002 Federal Impact Aid Funding into the 2019 Federal Budget, without delay, through the support of the newest "Dear Colleague Letter in the House and Senate", and oppose attempts to re-purpose Impact Aid into Educational Savings Accounts, which have been introduced in S.2517 and H.R. 5199, and oppose any attempt to create other similar voucher-type programs that threaten the Impact Aid program.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me at 973-417-1396. Please be sure to keep me informed as to the status of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GBH", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

George B. Harper, Jr.
Mayor

GBH:af1

Enclosure

cc: Impact Aid Program, Marilyn Hall, USDOE, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington DC 20202
Rosalie Lamonte, PhD, Executive County Superintendent
Dr. Jeanne Apyasz, Superintendent, Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School
Craig Hutcheson, Superintendent, Kittatinny Regional High School
Honorable Steven V. Oroho
Honorable Parker Space
Honorable Harold J. Wirths
Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, ATTN: Director Jonathan Rose