

**COVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
JOINT RESOLUTION ON STATE FUNDING FOR COVID RELATED EXPENSES**

**WHEREAS**, The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and the Governor established a goal of in-person student attendance during the 2020-2021 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, RIDE required Local Education Agencies (LEA's) to submit reopening plans that outline various scenarios for in-person, hybrid, and distance learning; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Coventry provided a reopening plan as required, and subsequently revised said plans, in accordance with guidance and suggestions provided by RIDE; and

**WHEREAS**, RIDE and the Governor have stated that reopening of schools will be based on science data, and that the health of students, teachers, and other support staff will be driving concerns that guide reopening efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, if schools are to re-open for in-person or hybrid learning this fall in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coventry School District must do so safely and responsibly; and

**WHEREAS**, Significant resources will be required to meet supply and operational readiness metrics required for in person or hybrid learning scenarios; and

**WHEREAS**, The Coventry School Committee has already made significant reductions in the District's Fiscal Year 2021 budget to compensate for reductions in State Aid; and

**WHEREAS**, District administration, in consultation with health professionals, have estimated the cost of the in-person learning model at \$5.4 million and a hybrid learning model at \$4.7 million respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, The School Committee has no ability to make additional cuts to the School budget, and the Town of Coventry does not have sufficient capacity to fund COVID-19 specific expenses to meet supply and operational readiness for in-person and hybrid learning; and

**WHEREAS**, if the State of Rhode Island suggests, compels, or requires LEA's to implement in-person or hybrid learning models for the upcoming school they have a responsibility to fund COVID-19 specific expenses to meet readiness markers, as well as provide the full amount of regular educational aid so LEA's can meet budgeted operational needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the state cannot expect mandatory COVID-19 safety guidelines to be followed without also ensuring that each school district has the funds required to implement these guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, RIDE has a responsibility to support the operational readiness of LEA's through funding, training, and clear guidance.

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**NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED:**

That, the School Committee and Town Council will support and implement in-person and hybrid models if reentry metrics can be properly addressed for the safety of students, teachers, and support personnel; and

That, the School Committee must ensure the District can meet its current and future financial obligations in order to implement an in-person or hybrid models; and

That Town Council and School Committee call upon the Governor and duly elected representatives of the House and Senate to pass emergency funding to address the costs of COVID-19 related school expenses for all LEA's; and

That the School Committee and Town Council also call upon the State to fully restore education aid so the District can properly fund normal operations and avoid further budget cuts that negatively impact the student population in Coventry; and

That School Committee and Town Council urge RIDE to take a more supportive posture by providing assistance with distance learning curriculum and supplies, funding for professional development, and assistance in implementing best practices for distance learning; and

That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage of the School Committee and Town Council; and

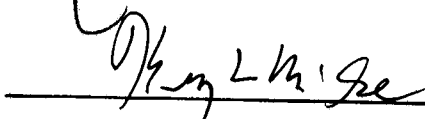
That an executed copy shall be forwarded to the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, the entire Coventry legislative delegation, and the Rhode Island Association of School Committees.

DATE ADOPTED: August 24, 2020

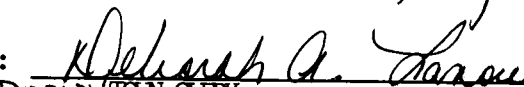
SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR:



COUNCIL PRESIDENT:



ATTEST:

  
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK