

RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION
River Vale, New Jersey 07675
REORGANIZATION MEETING
May 12, 2020
- ADDENDUM -

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, the Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting has been sent to all school offices, officially designated newspapers, filed with the Township Clerk and posted in the Board of Education Office, forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

RESOLUTION BY _____ **SECONDED** _____ to approve Resolution **NB1** as listed below.

NB1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION, that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2392 and Assembly Bill 3969, currently pending in the state Legislature, would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay or alter the transmission of property tax revenue to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs; and

WHEREAS, on average, local property taxes constitute close to 60% of public school revenue, with the percentage even greater in a significant number of districts; and

WHEREAS, delaying or altering the transmission of property tax revenue from municipalities would result in a financial crisis for school districts, seriously disrupting the educational process; and

WHEREAS, although public school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of our students is taking place through remote instruction and, therefore, continued timely transmission of all property tax revenue due to the school district is critical for the educational process to continue without interruption; and

WHEREAS, under our state's current structure, municipalities are designated as the authorities to collect property taxes, but those taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met; and

WHEREAS, municipal governing bodies are empowered under current law to borrow in order to ensure that full payments to school districts are made;

WHEREAS, the River Vale Board of Education recognizes the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts, but believes that this legislation would only worsen the situation for our communities; and

WHEREAS, while S-2392/A-3969 would require a municipality to pay a percentage of the revenue due to a school district based on consultation between the state Departments of Community Affairs and Education, the amount of taxes collected at the time and the financial condition of the municipality and school district, it does not address subsequent payment to the school district to make up the full shortfall amount; and

WHEREAS, as currently written, S-2392/A-3969, which is designed to ease a financial burden on municipalities, would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and families that they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the River Vale Board of Education urges the State Legislature and Governor to oppose S-2392/A-3969; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Philip D. Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and the 39th Legislative District’s representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

ROLL CALL

	<u>Mrs.</u> <u>Pintarelli</u>	<u>Mr.</u> <u>Puccio</u>	<u>Mrs.</u> <u>Rothenberg</u>	<u>Mr.</u> <u>Rosini</u>	<u>Mr.</u> <u>Schlereth</u>	<u>Mrs.</u> <u>Senande</u>	<u>Mrs.</u> <u>Waldes</u>
AYE							
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							