

**VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN RESOLUTION
REQUESTING THE REFORM OF
NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING**

Introduced by: _____
Seconded by: _____
Dated: _____

WHEREAS, New York State is one of only twelve states that continue to fund public schools through property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the greatest financial hurdle faced by homeowners in the State is the onerous burden of school taxes; and

WHEREAS, that burden has forced innumerable New Yorkers, including many of those transitioning to retirement on a fixed income, to sell their properties and move from the State; and

WHEREAS, most states fund public schools through sales and income taxes (both corporate and personal) and other possible avenues of funding including mortgage taxes and excess profits taxes, all of which should be considered a more equitable and less burdensome alternatives to the school property tax method in New York; and

WHEREAS, even the City of New York no longer funds its public schools through property taxes and, recognizing this as a matter of equity as well as hardship, and in order to avoid a “subsidy” by the residents of one region of another, the residents of the City of New York should either be afforded a credit or excluded from any funding alternative so that fair legislation can be enacted without opposition on that score; and

WHEREAS, responsibility for the education of our youth should be more fairly and equitably distributed and not placed on the backs of our property owners; and

WHEREAS, the two percent tax cap law enacted by New York State is proof that the Governor, Senate and Assembly are aware of this crisis, but it is only a band aid approach to a worsening problem; and

WHEREAS, a more permanent solution must be found for the sake of the survival of our State.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Buchanan in its capacity as the governing body of the Village hereby requests that Governor Andrew Cuomo, members of the New York State Senate and members of the New York State Assembly urgently develop equitable alternative funding system to the property tax; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we respectfully request that our New York State representatives, the Hon. Terrance Murphy, Senator for the 40th Senate District and the Hon. Sandra Galef, Assemblywomen for the 95th Assembly District , advocate for the reforms herby put forth and we thank them for their diligence in this matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute a letter to the Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor requesting said reforms and deliver such letter and certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, Senator Murphy and Assemblywomen Galef; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the foregoing resolution shall take effect immediately.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker _____

Trustee Richard Funchion _____

Trustee Duane Jackson _____

Trustee Cesare Pasquale _____

Trustee Nicolas Zachary _____

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of to .

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)SS.:
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)

I, Kevin Hay, Village Administrator of the Village of Buchanan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Buchanan at a meeting of said Board held February 2, 2016.

KEVIN HAY, Village Administrator/Clerk