

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PREVAILING WAGE REFORM
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE PENN-TRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, in these challenging economic times, the Prevailing Wage Act places a costly mandate on our school districts and diverts valuable resources from our classrooms; and

WHEREAS, school districts must pay state-mandated prevailing wage rates for workers on every construction or renovation project in which estimates exceed \$25,000, a number that has not been adjusted for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, these prevailing wage rates are not reflective of the actual wage rates in the local community, and have actually been shown, in numerous studies, to inflate the cost of construction projects by at least 10%, siphoning millions of taxpayer dollars from the classroom each year; and

WHEREAS, as Pennsylvania school districts spent over \$7 billion on reimbursable school construction and renovation projects bid over the last decade, if school districts were to save 10% of the construction costs on these projects, it would have saved Pennsylvania taxpayers over \$700 million on these projects alone; and

WHEREAS, the Penn-Trafford School District has budgeted \$32 million on a project to renovate the high school and the district estimates it could save approximately \$3.2 million if prevailing wage requirements were not mandated; and

WHEREAS, as our school districts are facing reductions in education funding, declining local revenues, and increasing pension and special education costs, costly mandates such as prevailing wage limit a district's ability to direct these limited resources to our classrooms where they are needed most; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that we are giving our students the education they deserve, school districts and local taxpayers need relief from these mandates that provide no educational value to students and do nothing to promote increases in student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Penn-Trafford School District supports legislation that would increase the threshold at which school districts must pay prevailing wage on construction and renovation projects, with the threshold more properly aligned with current costs; such legislation also should include an inflation adjustment to the threshold number, thus providing a good first step in relieving the burden of this mandate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Penn-Trafford School District will encourage its board of directors, and others, including parents, students and district taxpayers, to urge the Pennsylvania General Assembly to continue to take measures to further alleviate the burden the Prevailing Wage Act has on school districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be posted on the district's website and submitted to the elected state senators and representatives of the Penn-Trafford School District in the General Assembly, to the Governor of Pennsylvania, and to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2014.

Signed,

Attest:



School Board President



Board Secretary

(seal)