

Urging School Districts Across Ulster County To Consolidate In Order To Improve Services And Reduce The Burden On Property Tax Payers

WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR

Referred to: The Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee (Chairman Harris and Legislators Donaldson, Gregorius, Lopez and Wawro)

Legislator Jeanette Provenzano and Legislator Carl Belfiglio offer the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County is home to six School Districts totally within the County: Highland, City of Kingston, New Paltz, Onteora, Rondout Valley and Saugerties; and

WHEREAS, funding each School District places a significant burden on the property tax payers of the County; and

WHEREAS, consolidating school districts will present significant cost savings due to reduced administration costs, cutting duplication and pooling resources; and

WHEREAS, New York State encourages consolidation by offering reorganization incentive aid, providing a 40% increase in operating aid for five years, which is then reduced by 4 % per year until phased out (14 years of added aid), as well as additional aid for new buildings; and

WHEREAS, larger, consolidated school districts, have the ability to offer richer and more varied educational programs to students thereby creating greater academic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, consolidated districts also offer greater extracurricular activities as there is a larger pool of students from which to draw interest in various activities; where, in a small district, there may not be enough students to justify continuing the activity; and

WHEREAS, consolidation of school districts will save the property tax payers in Ulster County millions of dollars each year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature recommends and urges each school district within Ulster County to begin the process of merging into larger consolidated school districts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the above-mentioned five school districts within Ulster County,

Resolution No. 313 December 17, 2013

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and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Defeated in Committee: Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services
on December 11, 2013

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE