

# Resolution

**WHEREAS**, South Carolina is experiencing a severe economic crisis that is significantly impacting state revenue and has resulted in General Fund budget cuts totaling \$484 million to South Carolina's K-12 public schools during the past two fiscal years including a cut of more than \$42 million to Greenville County Schools General Fund budget; and

**WHEREAS**, These budget cuts have reduced the base student cost to \$1,764 per student, reflecting 1996-1997 funding levels; and

**WHEREAS**, Education Improvement Act funds have also been reduced by \$112 million statewide including a cut of more than \$5 million to Greenville County Schools over that same two-year period; and

**WHEREAS**, the most recent figures for the proposed 2010-2011 state budget include additional EIA cuts of \$9 million, and EFA cuts of \$85 million, reflecting a base student cost of \$1,630 (1995 funding level) which will harm the education of every child in South Carolina, threatening the State's decades-long effort to raise the levels of educational achievement and personal income of the people of our State; and

**WHEREAS**, the negative impacts to educational achievement and personal income will significantly impair economic development efforts in our State; and

**WHEREAS**, Act 388 (property tax relief act of 2006) has severely hampered school districts' ability to raise local revenue to offset state funding shortfalls, and has had consequences that will, unless addressed legislatively, cause unintended shifts in the distribution of EFA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly continues to give favorable consideration to legislation such as H.3272, the point-of-sale bill, and H.4243, the charter school bill, despite their negative impact on local school district revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, our K-12 educational system will continue to suffer unless our State takes immediate and long-term action to address this fiscal crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DOES HEREBY STRONGLY URGE** the South Carolina General Assembly to support public schools during this economic crisis and prevent the loss of more teacher jobs by providing new revenue streams such as removing some of the more than \$2.8 billion in State sales tax exemptions.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the South Carolina General Assembly places an immediate moratorium on the passage of any further laws that will grant additional tax exemptions, or will increase school district financial obligations at the local level without adequate and recurring state funding.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Greenville County School District Board of Trustees supports the immediate enactment by the General Assembly of maximum financial flexibility for local school districts and that the Greenville County School District Board of Trustees supports Legislative action this year to hold temporarily (for one year only) the Index of Taxpaying Ability published in February 2009 and to use it for funding fiscal year 2010-2011.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be furnished to members of our Legislative Delegation and communicated to our parents, businesses and school supporters.

**APPROVED** by the Greenville County School District Board of Trustees at its March 9, 2010 Board Meeting.