NEW PALTZ CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION ON SITING OF TOWN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT ADJACENT TO NEW PALTZ HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the New Paltz Central School District's Board of Education ("Board") was recently made aware that the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz ("Town") is committed to siting a sewage treatment plant on real property located adjacent to New Paltz High School ("High School"); and

WHEREAS, the Board objects to the fact it was not consulted or even made aware of the potential siting of the sewage treatment plant adjacent to the High School, thereby effectively excluding it and the school community, those who would be directly impacted, from any meaningful discussion or input regarding the siting of the sewage treatment plant; and

WHEREAS, the Board, upon review of the Town's agendas and minutes, as posted on the Town's website, could find no mention of the siting of the sewage treatment plant next to the High School, from which the Board can only infer that there was no attempt at transparency and there was, in fact, an attempt to preclude public knowledge and participation; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the students who attend the High School and the staff that work at the High School are of primary importance to the Board;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Paltz Central School District Board of Education declares its strong opposition to the Town siting the sewage treatment plant adjacent to or within reasonable proximity to the High School or any other school for reasons of health, safety and welfare of students and staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby calls for the Town to be transparent, responsible and ethical in its deliberations and decision making, by including the Board and the school community in the dialogue and discussion of the location of the sewage treatment plant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby calls for the Town to discontinue its current plans to locate the sewage treatment plant next to the High School and to permit the Board and school community to study the impact of the Town's plan and to determine alternative locations that do not impact the students and staff in any of the schools of the New Paltz Central School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board requests that the Town provide to the Board of Education as soon as possible all environmental studies, engineering studies, site plans and specifications, alternative locations of other possible sites considered, as well as any resolutions, local laws or ordinances adopted by the Town that are related to the siting and operation of the sewage treatment plant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board demands that any discussions of this matter be conducted at a duly convened open meeting of the Town Board with appropriate notice given to the media and public as required by law, and an opportunity for the Board, the school community and the general public to participate in the discussion and voice its opinions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent of Schools and School Attorney to explore all possible avenues by which the Board may prevent the siting of a sewage treatment plant adjacent to or within reasonable proximity of the New Paltz High School, or any school in the District.