

**NEW PALTZ CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, The New York State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 and the General Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Four New York State executive offices are up for election in 2014

- Governor of New York
- Lieutenant Governor of New York
- New York Attorney General
- New York Comptroller; and

WHEREAS, the New Paltz Central School District (“the District”) has seen a decline in State and Federal Aid over the last several years that has shifted the burden of education funding to the local taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) has significantly reduced the total amount of state aid the District has received with an average loss of \$1.9 million dollars per year since the 2009-2010 school year; and

WHEREAS, New York State has implemented an unprecedented number of new unfunded mandates that have placed significant financial pressure on the District; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2013, the New Paltz Central School District Board of Education unanimously adopted a resolution against high stakes testing due to the negative financial impact to the District; and

WHEREAS, The District has endured a net reduction of teachers and staff by over sixty (60) individuals since 2008; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Paltz Central School District Board of Education encourages stakeholders to be mindful of the following issues related to public education:

- Protecting public education from privatization, including the diversion of state funds to private schools through vouchers or back-door tax credits; and
- Developing learning standards based in evidence or research and created with input from educators and early childhood experts; and
- Narrowing funding gaps between New York State’s poor and wealthy districts; and
- Ensuring 100% test transparency and an independent review of all state mandated assessments for validity, content, and construct, to be conducted by educators, child development experts and parents; and
- Mitigating for-profit companies’ influence of any education policy regarding standardized tests, text book purchases, experimental learning standards (including the Common Core) and teacher assessments.

Adopted by the New Paltz Board of Education August 27, 2014