

## **RESOLUTION OPPOSING STATE MANDATED SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois' 102nd General Assembly has recently discussed state mandated school consolidation; and

**WHEREAS**, mandated consolidation efforts may affect many Illinois school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, mandated consolidation efforts may require a definition of school district boundaries and maximum tax rates that can be levied by the newly consolidated school district; and

**WHEREAS**, mandated consolidation efforts may only require a consideration of such arbitrary triggers as enrollment, district type, and geography; and

**WHEREAS**, mandated consolidation efforts may take the place of local voters and school boards to decide on local school district boundaries and tax rates; and

**WHEREAS**, each county, city, and district is distinct and faces unique circumstances for which local input and support is necessary for any successful consolidation effort; and

**WHEREAS**, local communities provide the majority of funding for schools and have the knowledge of unique local circumstances and considerations to direct that funding toward their local school district as necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, local communities, parents, voters, and school boards can factor in a myriad of important local considerations such as tax rates, teacher salary schedules, local bus routes, curriculum alignment, facilities, governance, finance, and the best interests of students; and

**WHEREAS**, consolidation does not save taxpayer money, as any commission for consolidation would need substantial additional revenue to be successful; and

**WHEREAS**, this mass consolidation of Illinois school districts would create new and increased costs for the consolidated districts due to longer bus routes, facilities updates and changes, staffing needs, etc., that would likely surpass any savings in the elimination of a school administrator; and

**WHEREAS**, mandated consolidation efforts may not address barriers to restructuring schools in Illinois, including but not limited to the merging of salary schedules, disparities in tax rates, outstanding debt and varying capital needs for individual school districts, and existing employment and service contracts into which individual districts have previously entered; and

**WHEREAS**, forcing communities and schools to consider consolidating schools at this time may diminish the required efforts and full focus of the school community to support a safe return to school during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, students will need stability in their schooling post-pandemic more than any other time, as many will be returning to their schools in-person after long absences.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of River Forest Public Schools District 90, Cook County, State of Illinois, as follows:

**Section 1:** The Board opposes state mandated consolidation of Illinois school districts; and

**Section 2:** The Board finds that school district consolidation decisions should be made by local communities, voters, parents, and school boards who are best suited to understanding local considerations.

**ADOPTED** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2021, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Education

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Education