

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

**RESOLUTION: RESOLUTION OF THE CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN
OPPOSING CONTRACT CONTINUATION 2014 BILL – H 7465 & 2014 BILL S 2411**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF CUMBERLAND AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS: Current state law does not provide for mandatory continuation of an existing teacher collective bargaining agreement; and

WHEREAS: Whereas a Superior Court justice recently ruled that state statute, defining when a contract ends, obviates any clause, agreed to, allowing for a continuation of a public employee contract and;

WHEREAS: School districts and cities and towns have seen a calamitous reduction of state aid and;

WHEREAS: There is a \$149 million dollar revenue/expenditure gap predicted for the FY 2015 budget and cities and towns, have lost, since FY 2008 over \$185 million general revenue sharing and auto excise reimbursements and;

WHEREAS: Taxpayers are already burdened by some of the highest property taxes nationally and;

WHEREAS: School districts and cities & towns must comply with RIGL §44-5-2, that caps the property tax levy, for FY 2013 at 4%, and;

WHEREAS: According to § 16-2-9 (d) “The school committee of each school district shall be responsible for maintaining a school budget which does not result in a debt.” and;

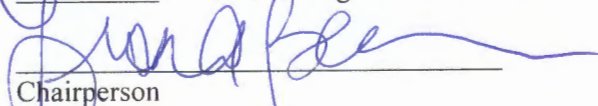
WHEREAS: School committees are required to adhere to the Rhode Island Department of Education’s Basic Education Plan, teacher evaluation regulations and other RIDE rules and regulations and;

WHEREAS: Contract continuation would serve as a disincentive for unions to bargain in good faith and allow existing employee wages and benefits to continue unchanged indefinitely forcing districts to possibly violate state mandated property tax caps and RIDE’s rules and regulations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cumberland School Committee respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to oppose 2014 – H 7465 & 2014 – S 2411 and any and all legislative proposal that would, mandate expired teacher contracts must continue at the existing terms and conditions; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution by forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative and the Governor.

WHERETO: The following bear witness:


Chairperson


Clerk

Introduced by: Jeff Mutter

Passed: 3/27/14