



REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS 2016

The following is a report on actions taken on the resolutions that were considered by the Delegate Assembly at the annual meeting in Hyannis on Wednesday, November 2. There were 133 districts represented at the Assembly.

Resolution 1—Foundation Budget

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that MASC calls upon the legislature to enact the recommendations of the Foundation Budget into law, and further,

- That the legislature order the Commission to reconvene in order to conduct further deliberations and make such recommendations as the FBRC may propose, and further
- That the FBRC shall address and make recommendations toward the overall accuracy of the adequacy of the overall Foundation Budget.

An amendment was proposed by the delegate from Everett to add the following:

- That the FBRC shall address and make recommendations toward the overall accuracy of low income students.

The amendment was approved unanimously.

The resolution, as amended, was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Resolution 2—Tax Reform Ballot Question

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS there is a clear need to invest in our state's educational, social, and infrastructure systems, and

WHEREAS the need to rebuild our roads and bridges, strengthen public education, and provide the necessary support to help ensure social and economic equity for the residents of Massachusetts, and WHEREAS a reasonable solution could be a combination of tax reforms and measures of accountability to establish a more equitable source for revenue and a more effective way of measuring our success, and

WHEREAS Net income growth over the past decade has demonstrated a disproportionately lower tax burden as a share of net income upon high wage earners within a current tax system than is asked of economically disadvantaged and middle class families, and

WHEREAS Advocates for social and economic equity are considering seeking to ask voters to amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth to allow for greater tax equity that will not raise taxes on any but the wealthiest residents of Massachusetts,

WHEREAS the Foundation Budget Review Commission recommended additional revenue and securing a more equitable distribution of those funds, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees explore ways to promote social and economic equity through a ballot initiative whose purpose may include a state constitutional amendment, tax reform, protection of the state's neediest residents of all ages, and seeks additional revenue only from tax reform affecting the state's wealthiest residents.

Further, that the goal of such a ballot referendum would be to secure a stronger financial base to underwrite needed improvements in the infrastructure of the Commonwealth as well as the educational, social and economic wellbeing of its residents.

An amendment was proposed by the delegate from Plymouth to add the following text (printed below in bold text) to the final "Whereas. . . ."

WHEREAS the Foundation Budget Review Commission recommended additional revenue and securing a more equitable distribution of those funds, **and explore ways to find additional revenue to fund it.**

The amendment passed on a vote of 61-37.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted on a vote of 67-41.

Resolution 3—Charter School Reform Ballot Question

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS the possibility of the expansion of Commonwealth charter schools in Massachusetts poses a threat to the ability of public school districts to provide services to the children of the Commonwealth, and

WHEREAS in many cities and towns, Commonwealth charter schools are imposed upon communities over their objections and without regard to the impact such a charter school would have on the education of children in the public schools, and

WHEREAS without substantial reform of Commonwealth charter school financing; recruitment of students; accurate, unduplicated, and students who are no longer seeking to enroll but are alleged to be on charter school waiting lists; equitable charter school enrollment of representative segments of the population of economically disadvantaged, special education, and disabled students remediation of the adverse impact of charter school expansion cannot be addressed, and

WHEREAS these circumstances would be exacerbated by the approval by voters of a proposed ballot initiative to expand charter schools and to circumvent such safeguards as would address several of the inequities arising out of the expansion of charter schools in Massachusetts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees urge the citizens of the Commonwealth to reject such a ballot initiative, and further,

That MASC seek legislative approval of a comprehensive set of reforms that includes:

1. Establishment of strict guidelines or regulations to require that charter schools enroll represent cross sections of students residing within the school service areas.
2. Reporting of accurate numbers of students who leave charter schools to return to the sending districts or district of residence.
3. Requiring the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to retain and report accurate data on enrollment of students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, economic disadvantage, emotional disability and status as racial and linguistic minorities.
4. State requirements that any charter school authorized in a community without its consent be funded in full by the Commonwealth rather than by expropriation of Chapter 70 education aid from the sending cities, towns and regions.
5. State funding in full of any mitigation funds created to offset the loss of state funding for students who become students in charter schools.

An amendment was proposed by the delegate from Newton to add the following language in bold text to item number 3, as follows:

1. Requiring the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to retain and report accurate data on enrollment of **English Language Learners**, students with

learning disabilities, physical disabilities, economic disadvantage, emotional disability and status as racial and linguistic minorities.

The amendment was approved by a show of hands.

An additional amendment was further proposed by the delegate from Newton that would add the following item:

- Requiring charter boards of trustees to be accountable and to include a member of the school committee from the sending district as well as to include parents as 25% of its membership, and to include a student.

This amendment was rejected on a show of hands.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted on a show of hands.

Resolution 4—Social and Emotional Well-Being of Students

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS various factors including the impact of poverty, family status, other social issues and academic pressures have contributed to a marked increase in the levels of stress and anxiety among students at all grade levels, and

WHEREAS the expansion of standardized testing to a wider range of students and these tests to establish ratings for schools and districts has contributed to the growing concern among educators that students are exhibiting complications of adding stressful factors to their lives both inside and outside of school, and

WHEREAS advocates for students, including school committee members, school leaders, teachers and parents have identified that an effective strategy for children is to address social and emotional learning (SEL) by various tactics, and

WHEREAS in response to the demand for SEL, initiatives have been organized by several stakeholder groups including a collaboration of MASC, MASS, MIAA, MSSAA, MESPA, MOEC, and Teachers 21, and, in addition, a separate working group within MASC to identify available resources, new strategies, and tactics to promote the social and emotional well-being of children,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees shall be directed to deploy such resources of the Association independently and in collaboration with

other organizations to gather resources, identify strategies, and improve public awareness of the importance of addressing student social and emotional well-being, and further that MASC shall give consideration to such public policy initiatives that prioritize action by stakeholders and stakeholder groups, in collaboration with expert behavioral and health care providers, as the most effective entities for addressing strategies that are in the best interests of children.

An amendment was proposed by the delegate from Holyoke to add in the first line the following language in bold text:

WHEREAS various factors including, **but not limited to**, the impact of poverty, family status, other social issues and academic pressures have contributed to a marked increase in the levels of stress and anxiety among students at all grade levels

The amendment passed as proposed on a voice vote.

The resolution, as amended, passed unanimously.