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The Cherry Hill School District has been underfunded by the state of New Jersey for more than a decade. This has created an unfair burden on our taxpayers, on our Board of Education, and on our administration as we have been forced to make compromises in our annual budgets to maintain our commitment to our excellent staff and curriculum. Most of all, our students, now and in the future, deserve better. The Cherry Hill Board of Education and Cherry Hill Public Schools administration for more than a decade have been demanding fair funding for our schools.

In 2014, during a multi-district meeting of administrators and Board of Education members organized by the Woodbury School District, a representative from the New Jersey Department of Education repeatedly emphasized that any successful efforts to secure fair funding would have to come from community constituents. The “voices of the people,” he said, carried far more weight than the voices of administrators and board members. Within months, the Cherry Hill Public Schools Zone PTA launched the Fair Funding for Cherry Hill Schools Committee, composed of community members. For the five years since then, the Cherry Hill Board of Education and administration have been working with the Fair Funding for Cherry Hill Schools Committee to rally our state representatives to provide fair funding to Cherry Hill. In addition to monthly Fair Funding Committee Meetings attended by at least one Cherry Hill Public Schools (CHPS) Administrator, as well as letter writing and phone calling campaigns, the following meetings of note have taken place:

- In October 2015, Cherry Hill Mayor Chuck Cahn met with the Fair Funding for Cherry Hill Schools Committee to discuss the history of CHPS’s funding crisis and to offer his assistance in helping the group meet with our state representatives.
- In December 2016, Members of the CHPS Board of Education, as well as Superintendent Dr. Joseph Meloche and other administrators, and members of the Fair Funding Committee met in Cherry Hill with Senator/Senate President Steve Sweeney, Alan Weinberg - Director of Operations for the Senate Majority Office and senior advisor to the Senate President, Senator James Beach, Democratic Aid Liz Mahn, and Assemblypersons Pamela Lampitt and Lou Greenwald to push for fair funding.
- In November 2017, CHPS Superintendent Dr. Joseph Meloche, Public Information Officer Barbara Wilson, and members of the Fair Funding Committee met with Representative Lou Greenwald to reiterate our continued need for Fair Funding.
- In April 2018, Superintendent Dr. Joseph Meloche testified at the New Jersey State Senate Budget Hearing to advocate for increased funding from the state’s 2019 fiscal year budget for the Cherry Hill Public Schools.
- On January 24, 2019, six Board of Education members and two members of CHPS administration, along with several Cherry Hill community members, attended the Town Hall Meeting at Rowan University sponsored by State Senator Sweeney and Assemblyman Lou Greenwald. At this meeting, during the questions/comments

- portion, one of our community members spoke passionately about the need for Cherry Hill to receive more state funding. Assemblyman Greenwald commented that he was impressed with Cherry Hill’s sustained, passionate, and effective advocacy for more state funding. After the meeting, Cherry Hill Board of Education President Eric Goodwin spoke directly to Assemblyman Greenwald and Senator Sweeney about the need for Cherry Hill to receive more state funding.
- On January 29, 2019, a Cherry Hill Board of Education member, along with three community members, met with Senator James Beach to advocate for more state funding for Cherry Hill. During this meeting, Senator Beach expressed his support for Cherry Hill to receive more funding.
- During the first week of March 2019, Cherry Hill Board of Education President Eric Goodwin, another board member, members of CHPS administration and members of the Fair Funding committee will meet with Assemblyman Greenwald and Assemblywoman Lampitt to advocate for more state funding for Cherry Hill schools.

Our continued efforts have resulted in our seeing a gradual increase in state aid since 2015. The following is the amount of General Fund State Aid we have received each year since the 2015-2016 school year:

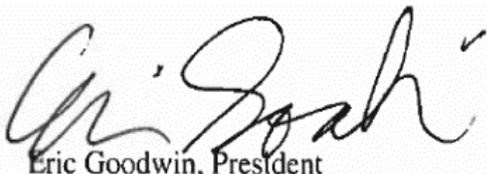
2015-2016	\$12,949,463
2016-2017	\$13,110,005
2017-2018	\$14,131,115
2018-2019	\$17,295,270

While we are glad to have received these increases, our General Fund State Aid still falls far short of the \$29 million we are entitled to annually under the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) of 2008. The Cherry Hill Board of Education and the Cherry Hill Public Schools administration are committed to advocating for more state funds for Cherry Hill. We continue to present a consistent, reasoned and formidable presence to our state lawmakers and decision makers, holding them accountable for what Cherry Hill needs.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Fair Funding for Cherry Hill Schools Committee, sharing their grassroots efforts with our internal and external stakeholders, encouraging all stakeholders to become involved in the Fair Funding effort, and providing a location for their regular meetings and special events.

The success of our students and our community, for generations to come, depends on securing the funding we should be receiving under the SFRA.

Signed on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019,



Eric Goodwin, President  
Cherry Hill Board of Education



Joseph N. Meloche, ED.D  
Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools