WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Constitution requires the State Legislature to provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools for the instruction of all the children in the State between the ages of five and eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the State Legislature has failed to provide the level of funding necessary to implement the constitutionally required thorough and efficient education for students throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, there exists throughout New Jersey near universal agreement that the current implementation system of school funding is inefficient, unfair and unjust; and

WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act of 2008, which generally called for increased levels of funding to school districts based upon the number of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, was blessed by the New Jersey Supreme Court but never implemented as intended; and

WHEREAS, Governor Chris Christie has proposed a system for school funding that would provide all public school districts with the same per-pupil dollar amount irrespective of factors other than headcount; and

WHEREAS, Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto have both separately proposed the formation of committees to explore changes to school funding; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Senate and Assembly have both held hearings and heard testimony on the need to reform the current system of school funding; and

WHEREAS, thirty-one (31) school districts throughout the State, known as the Abbott Districts, have engaged in decades of litigation demonstrating the inequities of school funding in a successful effort to secure additional funds for their students; and

WHEREAS, sixteen (16) other school districts throughout the State, known as the Bacon Districts, have also engaged in litigation demonstrating that they were denied sufficient funding to provide a thorough and efficient education for their students, but were ultimately denied any additional funding from the State; and

WHEREAS, the Kingsway Regional School District, with the support of a number of other public school districts, has petitioned the New Jersey Supreme Court to require the Legislature to fully enforce the School Funding Reform Act; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Constitution authorizes the Governor to call the Legislature into special session to address specific issues when it is in the public interest to do so; and

WHEREAS, in light of the need for immediate and decisive action to reform the system of school funding in New Jersey, a special session of the Legislature is obviously in the public interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby calls upon Governor Chris Christie to call the Legislature into a special session for the purpose of enacting comprehensive school funding reform legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Christie, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Prieto, the Board's local representatives in the State Legislature, and the New Jersey School Boards Association Delegate Assembly, as well as be posted on the Board's website.