

RESOLUTION
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
Lindop School District 92
OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 7

WHEREAS, House Bill 7 (“HB 7”) is currently pending before Illinois’ 102nd General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, HB 7 would mandate a “School District Efficiency Commission” to identify no less than 25% of school districts in Illinois that would be required to hold a referendum to consolidate in the next general election; and

WHEREAS, this mandated consolidation effort would affect over 210 Illinois school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Commission would be tasked with defining school district boundaries and maximum tax rates that can be levied by the newly consolidated school district; and

WHEREAS, the Commission would only be required to consider such arbitrary triggers as enrollment, district type, and geography; and

WHEREAS, the Commission would 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, HB 7 does not address or require the Commission to 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 will 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 Lindop School District 92 Cook County, State of Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The Board opposes the mandated consolidation of Illinois school districts, as contemplated under HB 7; 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; and

Section 3: The Board finds it to be in the best interest of the School District and its students, staff, and community that Illinois' 102nd General Assembly rejects HB 7.

ADOPTED this 18th day of May, 2021, by the following vote:

Carla Joiner-Herrod, President

Shyrl Griffin, Vice President

Aaron Hannah, Secretary

Brian Dawson, Board Member

Woodie Morris, Jr., Board Member

Penny Williams-Wolford, Board Member

Tonya Taylor, Board Member