

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

**RESOLUTION**

**OF THE**

**COUNCIL**

**No.**

WHEREAS, Newport Council is once again requesting Newport voters reconsider a ballot question for voters in April 2026 regarding a new option presented by Rhode Island Department of Education combining administration only for the purpose of a Newport/Middletown Regionalized School District. Both communities will share one superintendent and one finance office. Teachers and students will remain in their respective communities for the foreseeable future. All other personnel will be under the direction of the superintendent and newly elected school committee consisting of membership from both communities; AND

WHEREAS, a regionalized administration office would enable both communities to greatly increase the State's reimbursement for the new Rogers and addition to Pell Elementary School from 52.5 to 80.5 percent; AND

WHEREAS, other incentives including 2-year bonuses and 50% reimbursement for in-district busing would go directly to the regionalized school system; AND

WHEREAS, the current level for funding for both municipalities would be combined to become the baseline funding going forward; AND

WHEREAS, policy decisions that move both communities to create a robust educational system are vital to the stabilization of financing public education; AND

WHEREAS, robust discussions among the combined communities of educators, parents, and students shall take place outlining ways communities would work together to use some reimbursement funding to improve programming and student outcomes in a regionalized district; NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED: that both Middletown and Newport provide an equal number of appointments to the academic advisory commission to discuss potential educational improvements and make recommendations going forward; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the Newport City Council will engage in discussions with Middletown Town Council to prioritize and commit the use of reimbursement funds to create an endowment to improve educational opportunities for all students to the regionalized district.

JEANNE-MARIE NAPOLITANO

IN COUNCIL  
READ AND PASSED

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LAURA C SWISTAK, CMC  
CITY CLERK