

**MEMBER ALERT – RESOLUTIONS ON COVID-19 EXPENSES
AND
THE RESPONSE TO SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND RACIAL JUSTICE IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

From: Deborah Davis, President, MASC
To: MASC Members
Date: June 15, 2020
Re: Member Alert – Proposed Resolutions for Consideration

The MASC Board of Directors has recommended that the attached resolutions be forwarded to our Resolutions Committee for consideration of the entire MASC membership. The resolutions address a) funding for the expenses related to COVID-19 including supplies and equipment needed to help schools reopen safely that originated with some of our CT Valley school committees and b) the response to issues of racism, equity, and diversity that have moved to center stage as the result of the events across the country during the past few weeks as developed by Denise Hurst, MASC Vice President and former Chair of the Minority Caucus, and Jake Oliveira, MASC Past President and Member of Directors of the National School Boards Association Board of Directors..

Because of the urgency and timeliness of both issues, the we are encouraging districts to consider them locally and respond by forwarding them to:

- Governor Baker,
- Education Secretary Peyser,
- Your State Senator and Representative
- Senate President Karen Spilka, and
- House Speaker Robert DeLeo,

and that you do so immediately during this fiscal and public health crisis and the call for social and economic equity.

We hope to be providing soon more information on the 2020 MASC Delegate Assembly which will consider these and a range of other important public policy issues. In the meantime, we offer them to your school committees for consideration at this time.

RESOLUTION: COVID-19 STATE FUNDING

WHEREAS, if schools are to re-open this fall in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the responsibility of each school district to do so safely and responsibly; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that each school district is able to pay for the enormous additional staffing, transportation and material expenses required to do this; and

WHEREAS, the state cannot expect mandatory COVID-19 safety guidelines to be followed without also ensuring that each school district has the funds required to implement these guidelines; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED: that the state must guarantee every school district full reimbursement for whatever COVID-19 expenses are required to follow state mandates.

We must ensure a statewide school re-opening that is safe, responsible and equitable.

THERE CAN BE NO UNFUNDED MANDATES FOR COVID-19.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ANTI-RACISM RESOLUTION:

NOTE: This has been revised for general distribution (6/14/20)

WHEREAS, as schools have the responsibility to equip students with their civil right of obtaining a free and appropriate public education, it is the responsibility of each school to ensure we create a welcoming community for ALL students; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility that every district provide to all district staff, including School Committee members annual professional development on diversity, equity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, every district will commit to recruiting and retaining a diverse and culturally responsive teaching workforce; and

WHEREAS, every district will examine their policies for institutional and systemic racialized practices and implement change with sustainable policies that are evidence based; and

WHEREAS, every district will incorporate into their curriculum the history of racial oppression and works by black authors and works from diverse perspectives; and

WHEREAS, we as school district leaders can no longer remain silent to the issues of racism and hate that continue to plague our public and private institutions;

RESOLVED: that [District] and all the school districts in the Commonwealth must guarantee that racist practices are eradicated, and diversity, equity and inclusion is embedded and practiced for our students, families, faculty and staff.

We must ensure our own school culture and that of every district in the Commonwealth is anti-racist, that acknowledges that all lives cannot matter until black lives matter.