

The following resolution was recorded in the official minutes of the Board of School Directors of Radnor Township School District on May 26, 2009.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL KEYSTONE EXAMS

The Board Curriculum Committee reviewed the proposals regarding Keystone Exams and the implications for Radnor Township School District and recommended that the Board of School Directors consider the following resolution opposing the proposed High School Keystone Exams.

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Booker, seconded by Ms. Rapoport, that the Board of School Directors of the Radnor Township School District oppose the State Board of Education proposals to enact Keystone Exams and any other regulations or legislations that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas. The following resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, legislators, including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

WHEREAS, the Radnor Township School District is committed to preparing all students for success in college and the workplace by providing a challenging and rich curriculum that focuses on developing in students a passion for learning, personal integrity, the pursuit of excellence and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, in the Radnor Township School District, graduates who have not scored proficient on the PSSA have shown understanding of state standards through a variety of other assessments including portfolios, oral presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and other methods; and

WHEREAS, the Radnor Township School District recognizes the importance of assessments and makes use of the PSSAs and local assessments to provide the district with information about students in need of remediation, consequently another layer of testing will only confirm what is already known; and

WHEREAS, the State, without regulatory change, can extend technical and financial assistance to districts already known to be struggling; and

WHEREAS, verification of the validity of local assessments as an alternative to the Keystone Exams would be required every six years and would be costly to the school district and administration in both time and money; and

WHEREAS, the monies required by the districts for verification of the validity of local assessments would require expenditures that would be better spent in classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the criteria for local assessments are undefined and may discourage assessments that would be beneficial for diverse learners; and

WHEREAS, the addition of the Keystone Exams would reduce the number of instructional days and impose an unreasonable load of high-stakes testing on students who are already facing a burden of stressful standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Exams will have continuing economic impact on districts operating under Act 1 fiscal constraints and on taxpayers across the Commonwealth, and these required expenditures have no proof of cost effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the State, having already identified best practices related to local proficiency assessments, can share these methods with all districts without the need to add Keystone Examinations and related expenses;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Radnor Township School District opposes the State Board of Education proposals to enact Keystone Exams and any other regulations or legislation that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, legislators, including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

The motion carried with the following vote of the Board:

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| AYES: | Steven Gerber | Patricia Booker | Kathy Fisher |
| | Charles Madden | John McMeekin | Brucie Rapoport |
| | Mary Young | Eric Zajac | |

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Greg McNicholas