

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PREVAILING WAGE REFORM
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE JAMESTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, in these challenging economic times, the Prevailing Wage Act places a costly mandate on our school districts and diverts valuable resources from our classrooms; and

WHEREAS, school districts must pay state-mandated prevailing wage rates for workers on every construction or renovation project in which estimates exceed \$25,000, a number that has not been adjusted for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, these prevailing wage rates are not reflective of the actual wage rates in the local community, and have actually been shown, in numerous studies, to inflate the cost of construction projects by at least 10%, siphoning millions of taxpayer dollars from the classroom each year; and

WHEREAS, as Pennsylvania school districts spent over \$7 billion on reimbursable school construction and renovation projects bid over the last decade, if school districts were to save 10% of the construction costs on these projects, it would have saved Pennsylvania taxpayers over \$700 million on these projects alone; and

WHEREAS, as our school districts are facing reductions in education funding, declining local revenues, and increasing pension and special education costs, costly mandates such as prevailing wage limit a district's ability to direct these limited resources to our classrooms where they are needed most; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that we are giving our students the education they deserve, school districts and local taxpayers need relief from these mandates that provide no educational value to students and do nothing to promote increases in student achievement; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1329, which provides a modest increase in the threshold at which school districts must pay prevailing wage on school construction and renovation projects and the addition of an inflation adjustment to this number, provides a good first step in giving districts the flexibility to save valuable dollars that can be spent in the classroom;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jamestown Area School District directs its board of directors to urge their legislators to support prevailing wage reform, such as House Bill 1329, which will alleviate the burden of the Prevailing Wage Act on the district and give the district flexibility in determining how best to spend its limited resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jamestown Area School District will encourage its board of directors, and others, including parents, students and district taxpayers, to urge the Pennsylvania General Assembly to continue to take measures to further alleviate the burden the Prevailing Wage Act has on school districts.

Adopted this nineteenth day of March, 2012.

Signed,

James L. Owens
School Board President

Attest:

Cheryl L. Goodemote
Board Secretary