



# Maurice River Township School District

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March 31, 2009

Caroline Casagrande, Assemblywoman  
71 West Main Street  
Suite 101  
Freehold, NJ 07728

Dear Assemblywoman Casagrande:

I am writing to thank you for having the courage to speak the truth as to the negative impact high school tuition hikes across the state are having on K-8 districts such as ours. You are the first legislator that I am aware of to state that this is "just unfair." Furthermore, you are also the first legislator to demonstrate the leadership and willingness to do something to stop "forcing (sending districts) to cut into the core of their elementary budgets."

I am writing not only on behalf of the Maurice River Township School District, but also the Woodbine, Commercial Township and Laurence Township school districts. All four of us are sending districts to the formerly Abbott designated Millville School District. For 2009-2010, all of us will experience a 33% increase in costs for high school tuitions; double digit percentage increases in tuition over the next several years are destined to cripple our ability to provide our K-8 children with the thorough and efficient education to which they are entitled for the very reason you recognize.

This is the second year that our school districts have sought relief from this injustice by appealing to the Department of Education to no avail. Consequently, we have been forced to file litigation to protect the integrity of our educational programs hoping for a remedy through the judicial system.

You offer us hope by your attempt to "sponsor a bill that would cap tuition increases at the same percentage increase in the state aid and tax levy of the sending district." Please know that such a bill would be a blessing to all K-8 school districts experiencing the same problems; I feel strongly that there should be a non-partisan effort on the part of the legislature to support your initiative to address this problem.

Once again, thank you for "trying to work out a solution that can be palatable to all." I know that our four districts would be more than willing to share specifics relative to how this issue is affecting us. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help in your efforts toward helping our K-8 schools.

Respectfully,

John J. Saporito  
Superintendent/Principal

JJS/pe  
cc Patricia Powell, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Maurice River Township Board of Education  
Frank DiDomenico, Maurice River Township Board Attorney