Mount Baker SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Resolution 24/25:3

A RESOLUTION URGING THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE TO ADDRESS K-12 FUNDING

WHEREAS the Washington State Constitution states that "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children"; and

WHEREAS Mount Baker School District is facing significant funding challenges as we plan for the 2025-2026 school year and despite having implemented reductions in the 2023-2024 school year; and

WHEREAS the percentage of K-12 funding in the state operating budget has declined from 52% in 2019 to 44% in 2024; and

WHEREAS inflation adjusted K-12 spending in Washington state has declined by over 10% since 2019; and

WHEREAS the state funding provided for public education has not kept pace with inflation impacting Mount Baker School District by nearly $1.5 million in the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS the state funding shortfalls for special education results in a $1.4 million negative impact to Mount Baker School District; and

WHEREAS the state funding shortfalls for utilities and insurance costs results in a $670,000 negative impact to Mount Baker School District in the 2024-2025 school year; and

WHEREAS the state created regionalization formula for district allocations is flawed such that Mount Baker School District receives a lower regionalization factor than our neighbors which could result in negative budget impacts to Mount Baker of $450,000 for the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS the state created "experience factor" formula supporting district allocations for districts with staff that have a higher than average experience and a ratio of more advanced degrees utilizes out of date data resulting in inadequate funding to Mount Baker of $270,000 for the 2025-26 school year; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Legislature has failed to act on a variety of options presented to address the systemically underfunded public education system in Washington State;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Baker School District No. 507 Board of Directors formally urges the Legislature to fully fund public education with ample provisions for students at the Mount Baker School District consistent with our state constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Baker School District No. 507 Board of Directors formally urges the Washington State Legislature to update existing allocations based on the most recent year's complete data to ensure accuracy for changing budget conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Baker School District No. 507 Board of Directors formally urges the Washington State Legislature to provide full funding for specific additional state requirements mandated through legislation including special education, materials, supplies and operating costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Baker School District No. 507 Board of Directors formally urges the Legislature to include in funding plans a comprehensive system for stable and sustainable revenue with ample provisions for equitable funding.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the Mount Baker School District No. 507, Whatcom County, Washington in a regular meeting thereof held on the 9th of January 2025.

MOUNT BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 507.
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Edward Fox
Director

Director

Director

Director

Director

ATTEST

Nick Perigo, Secretary