

Don Cowart
Superintendent

Jon M. Anderson, Esq.
School Committee Attorney

Jackie Zerba
School Committee Secretary



1675 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI 02816
Tel. 401-822-9400, Fax: 401-822-9464
TTY: 1-800-745-5555

School Committee Members

James Pierson, Chairperson - District 5
Ana Isabel dos Reis-Couto, Vice-Chairperson - District 1

Amanda Carlow, Member - District 4
John Cambio Jr., Member - District 3
Bradford Mayer, Member - District 2
Dorothy Jackvony, Member - Townwide
Cody Reidl, Member - Townwide

**RESOLUTION OF THE COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF RHODE ISLAND HOUSE BILL H5399 and Senate Bill, S0334**

WHEREAS, the Coventry Public School Committee is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students while ensuring the responsible and equitable use of financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island General Assembly has introduced House Bill H5399 and Senate Bill S0334, which amends the Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act to allow school districts to opt out of mandates that are not fully funded by the state; and

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates place a significant financial burden on school districts, forcing them to divert limited resources from essential educational programs, staff, and student services; and

WHEREAS, H 5399 provides school districts with greater fiscal flexibility and autonomy by allowing them to prioritize expenditures that best serve their students without being penalized in terms of state aid; and

WHEREAS, this legislation promotes local decision-making and financial accountability while ensuring that school districts are not forced to implement costly mandates such as High Quality Curriculum Mandates (\$1,069,334), Out of District Transportation (\$1,323,339), and Career and Technical Education School Choice (\$2,642,280) without adequate state funding or cost sharing from the State;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coventry Public School Committee strongly supports House Bill 5399 and urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass this critical legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Rhode Island, members of the Rhode Island General Assembly, the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and other relevant stakeholders to advocate for the passage of H5399 and S0334.

Adopted this March 13, 2025 by the Coventry Public School Committee.

Chairperson:

Board Members: