



Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Jason Schimpf
School Business Administrator

RESOLUTION HONORING SENATE PRESIDENT STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

WHEREAS, pursuant to the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA), approved in 2008, the Kingsway Regional School District, an extraordinary growth district, was deemed an underfunded school district, receiving just 46 percent of its full uncapped state aid entitlement; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the inequitable funding disparities plaguing schools like Kingsway throughout the state, the Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney, Senate President from the third legislative district, created the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness to enlighten members of the New Jersey Senate regarding the impact underfunding had on hundreds of school districts and hosted the first hearing at Kingsway Regional High School on January 27th, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney captured the essence of the School Funding Reform Act by championing fair and equitable school funding for all of New Jersey's schools through the elimination of artificial barriers such as adjustment aid and enrollment growth caps that prevented money from following the child; and

WHEREAS, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney sponsored Senate Bill 2, modifying the school funding law to eliminate adjustment aid and State aid growth limits, which was subsequently approved as Public Law 2018, c.67 on July 24, 2018, providing fair and equitable school funding for all of New Jersey's public school students; and

WHEREAS, through Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney's extraordinary efforts the signing of Senate Bill 2 increased Kingsway's full uncapped state aid adjustment to 58 percent in year one, an increase in state aid by \$2.129 million in the 2018-19 school year while putting the District on a path toward full state aid entitlement by fiscal year 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, given Senate President Sweeney's exceptional leadership, grit and unwavering commitment in working toward the passage of Senate Bill 2 and the permanent and positive impact this historic legislation has on the Kingsway Regional School District, it is proper and fitting for the Board of Education to honor his service with the District's *Distinguished Service Award*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kingsway Regional Board of Education joins the Kingsway Education Foundation to establish the annual *Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney Public Service Award* to a high school senior who has demonstrated a record of initiative, leadership and service within the school community and intends to dedicate their lives to a career in public service.

ATTEST:

Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

James Mueller
Board of Education President