

(Exhibit b)

TOWN OF FOSTER RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION 2016-02

RESOLUTION OF THE FOSTER TOWN COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF THE FORMATION OF A COALITION AMONG
RHODE ISLAND'S REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly promised a regional incentive to local communities to induce them to form regional school districts; and

WHEREAS, the towns of Bristol, Charlestown, Exeter, Foster, Glocester, Hopkinton, Richmond, Warren, and West Greenwich relied on the promises of the General Assembly to form the regional school districts of Bristol-Warren, Chariho, Exeter-West Greenwich, and Foster-Glocester, and

WHEREAS, the regional incentive was phased out in 2010 with the passage of the new education funding formula; and

WHEREAS, transportation categorical funds were provided in 2010 to regional school districts to partially offset the loss of the regional incentive and to reimburse for the higher transportation costs of the regional districts, and

WHEREAS, R.I.G.L.16-7.2-6 "requires that the state and regional school district share equally the student transportation costs net any federal sources of revenue for these expenditures"; and

WHEREAS, transportation categorical funds were level funded in 2016 and the regional school districts received less transportation categorical funds in 2016 than were required under R.I.G.L. 16-7.2-6; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Department of Education has recommended a budget to the regional school districts which calls for less transportation categorical funding for regional school districts than is required for 2017 under R.I.G.L. 16-7.2-6; and

WHEREAS, the regional school districts have designed and implemented a number of efficient, innovative and creative educational programs to meet the learning needs of all students; and

WHEREAS, the investment of state resources in our regional school districts has yielded positive educational outcomes for all students; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that students attending the regional school districts continue to receive a high quality public education and to reduce the burden on the taxpayers of regional school districts, that the Bristol Warren Regional School District, the Chariho Regional School District, the Exeter –West Greenwich Regional School District, and the Foster-Glocester Regional School District will:

1. cooperate and collaborate in matters related to state financial support of regional school districts, including the reinstatement of the regional incentive;

2. share knowledge with each other regarding efficient, innovative and creative educational programming;
3. disseminate information related to state funding of regional school districts and communicate with each other when state funding sources are threatened;
4. jointly introduce and/or support legislation, as necessary, to (a) protect the educational and financial interests of regional school districts and (b) advance the educational mission of regional school districts;
5. inform and seek the support of all related town councils and legislators regarding matters of mutual interest to regional school districts; and
6. advocate for full state funding of regional school districts, including transportation categorical funding, as call for in state law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Foster supports the formation of the Coalition of Regional School Districts and fully supports the goals of said Coalition as enumerated above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our State Delegation, the RI League of Cities and Towns and to all Rhode Island municipalities requesting support of the Coalition among Rhode Island's Regional School Districts.

This Resolution was read and approved by the Foster Town Council on Thursday, February 25, 2016.

Adopted this 25th day of February, 2016.

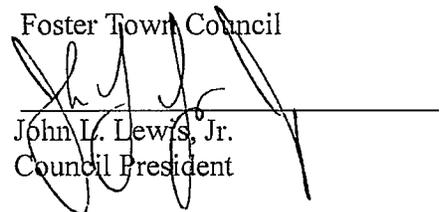
WHERETO the following bear witness:

Signed:



Jane H. Christopher
Town Clerk

Foster Town Council



John L. Lewis, Jr.
Council President

