

NBI# 29

2024 FORM FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Targeted Support for Rural and Minimum Aid Funding, A.M., 2024

4/26/24, 11:57 AM

NBI Name			Date and Time
Bill Brown			Gateway Education Association
Delegate Making the Motion	Cell	Email	Association Represented or Retired
Andrea Egitto			Northampton Assn. of School Employees
Delegate Seconding the Motion	Cell	Email	Association Represented or Retired

According to the MTA Standing/Special Rules:
With the exception of items on the agenda, all substantive motions shall be submitted in writing to the Presiding Officer.

MOTION

MOVED:

We move that:

- *The MTA acknowledges the existential crisis facing rural and regional school districts in Massachusetts and establishes this issue as a legislative and organizing priority, statewide.*
- *The MTA will use its full lobbying power in the state house to advocate for equal distribution of the Fair Share revenues between early education, K-12 education, and higher education, with the majority of the K-12 funding going to communities that haven't seen an increase from the Student Opportunity Act.*
- *The MTA will assign a dedicated organizer to help locals in these districts organize their members and their communities, and to connect these efforts with the statewide MTA action. This relationship will continue until there is significant movement on this funding issue.*
- *The MTA will use all viable methods to push/force the legislature and the governor to honor the language of the Fair Share Amendment (which states that the funds will be divided between infrastructure and **public** education) and cease funding privately run preschool options.*
- *The MTA will use its connections in the press to inform the public about the existential crisis facing our rural and minimum aid school districts. and use the MTA's communication apparatus to organize locals to bring the full power of the MTA to bear to push for consistent sustainable*

funding for rural aid and the setting of minimum aid levels.

SUBMITTER'S RATIONALE:

Given that:

- *Many rural and minimum aid school districts statewide are facing cuts that threaten their ability to continue to be viable,*
- *despite claims from the governor that rural aid would be increasing incrementally towards "sustainability (a number set by the state legislature's own commission at \$60 million yearly prior to recent inflation), the governor's budget flat-funded this aid at \$15 million, and the Senate's budget cut it in half (to \$7.5 Million)*
- *Funds from the SOA short-changed many (most) rural and all minimum aid districts, providing them with a small fraction of the benefits seen by larger and wealthier districts;*
- *Fair Share Amendment funds (those not returned to the taxpayers in the form of rebates and other exemptions) are being sent to support preschool programs (many of these are privately run, in violation of the amendment's language, while little to none of this revenue focused on k-12 funding, outside of free lunch programs.*
- *Given that rural and minimum aid districts believe it was (and is) important to fund larger, urban districts fairly, as well, but now believe that it is crucial to focus on the unique financial problems facing these rural and minimum aid districts.*

The MTA must make consistent and sustainable rural and minimum aid district funding a major statewide initiative before these districts become unviable.

DUES IMPACT: \$1.00

SUBMITTER'S COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE:

MTA COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE (For MTA use only):

MTA Cost: \$100,000

Staff Time: 2,000+ hours/year

