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**BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
EDUCATION CENTER

"to enable all students to succeed in a changing world"

September 23, 2009

Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RECEIVED  
2009 SEP 30 AM 8:29  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

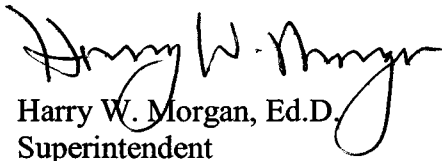
Gentlemen:

Last evening at the Board of School Directors' meeting for the Boyertown Area School District our Board passed the enclosed Resolution Opposing Proposed High School Keystone Exams. As you can see from the Resolution we are urging that the State Board of Education not enact Keystone Exams and any other regulations or legislation that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas.

We would ask that you strongly consider this Resolution regarding Keystone Exams. As you know, school boards are elected to represent their constituents and our Board believes that the Boyertown Area School District residents would also oppose the passage of this proposal to enact Keystone Exam.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me at 610.369.7402 if you have any questions regarding this Resolution.

Sincerely,

  
Harry W. Morgan, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE  
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED  
HIGH SCHOOL KEYSTONE EXAMS**

**September 22, 2009**

**WHEREAS**, the Boyertown Area School District is currently preparing all students for success in college and the workplace; and

**WHEREAS**, students who have passed the local proficiency assessments and evaluations and have historically experienced placement and success in college, could be denied the opportunity to attend even after offers of admission have been granted; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Boyertown Area School District, students who have not scored proficient on the PSSA have shown understanding of state standards through a variety of other assessments; and

**WHEREAS**, the PSSAs and local assessments already provide districts with information about students in need of remediation, and another layer of testing will only confirm what is already known; and

**WHEREAS**, the State, without regulatory change, can extend technical and financial assistance to districts already known to be struggling; and

**WHEREAS**, verification of the validity of these alternative assessments would be required every six years and would be costly to the school district and administration in both time and money, giving districts no choice but to “voluntarily” use the Keystone Exams rather than incur the financial burden associated with the validation process; and

**WHEREAS**, the monies required by the districts for verification of the validity of alternative assessments would require expenditures that would be better spent in classrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Keystone Exams will not measure 21<sup>st</sup> century skills employers are seeking and will take away instructional time that should be used for developing skills sets in the areas of leadership, collaboration, creativity and technology; and

**WHEREAS**, the Keystone Exams will have continuing economic impact on districts operating under Act 1 fiscal constraints and on taxpayers across the Commonwealth, and these required expenditures have no proof of cost effectiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, the State, having already identified the best practices related to local proficiency assessments, can share these methods with all districts without the need to add Keystone Exams and related expenses;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of School Directors of the Boyertown Area School District opposes the State Board of Education proposals to enact Keystone Exams and any other regulations or legislation that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, legislators, including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

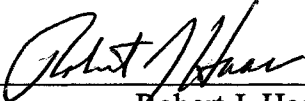
APPROVED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2009.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE  
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Attest:

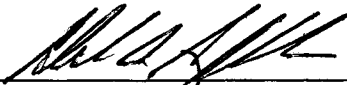
  
David A. Szablowski  
Board Secretary

By:

  
Robert J. Haas  
Board President

**CERTIFICATION**

I, David A. Szablowski , hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Board of School Directors of the Boyertown Area School District, and the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of School Directors at a duly advertised meeting held on September 22, 2009, at which time a quorum was present, the Resolution being approved by a vote of 9 to 0 on the 22 day of SEPTEMBER , 2009.

  
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David A. Szablowski  
Board Secretary

