

**Resolution Honoring  
JOSEPH M. TORSELLA  
Chair, State Board of Education  
2008-2011**

*May 18, 2011*

- Whereas,** Joseph M. Torsella served as Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education from August 2008 to April 2011; and
- Whereas,** During this time, the State Board advanced significant reforms to improve the rigor and consistency of academic expectations for Pennsylvania’s nearly 1.8 million public schoolchildren; and
- Whereas,** Mr. Torsella helped negotiate the Commonwealth’s new system of state high school graduation requirements, which will ensure more students graduate prepared for college and meaningful careers; and
- Whereas,** During Mr. Torsella’s chairmanship, the Board adopted the Common Core State Standards—marking the first revision to the Commonwealth’s academic targets in more than a decade; and
- Whereas,** Mr. Torsella helped focus attention on student health, safety and welfare as preconditions for student learning; and
- Whereas,** Mr. Torsella’s experience with management and reform were critical in the Board’s efforts to restructure key operations, reduce costs by more than 20 percent, and improve the transparency of its work and engagement with its stakeholders; and
- Whereas,** Mr. Torsella’s steady leadership helped the Board make major advances during a period of unprecedented change in education policy and practice; now therefore be it
- Resolved:** That the members of the State Board of Education extend their heartfelt thanks to Mr. Torsella for his leadership, dedication, and friendship; and be it further
- Resolved:** That the Board expresses its sincere wishes for Mr. Torsella’s continued success as he takes his diplomatic skills to the United Nations as U.S. Representative for Management and Reform.

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Larry Wittig  
Chairman  
May 18, 2011