

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 394 OF 2015

**Resolution introduced by Supervisors Monroe, Girard, Sokol, Wood, Frasier, Westcott and Strough**

### **SUPPORTING CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO NEW YORK STATE'S SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING STANDARD; CIVICS, CITIZENSHIP AND GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, the People are entitled, by Right, to a constitutionally valid system of education, which prepares each citizen to meet the obligations of citizenship in America, to understand America's constitutional form of governance and each one's own unalienable Rights and the responsibility to preserve and protect the blessings of individual liberty for future generations, and

WHEREAS, Section 801 of the New York State Education Law reads, in relevant part:

§801. Courses of instruction in patriotism and citizenship and in certain historic documents.

1. In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civic service and obligation and to foster in the children of the state moral and intellectual qualities which are essential in preparing to meet the obligations of citizenship in peace or in war, the regents of The University of the State of New York shall prescribe courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, and human rights issues....

2. The regents shall prescribe courses of instruction in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution of the United States, the amendments thereto, the declaration of independence, the constitution of the state of New York and the amendments thereto, to be maintained and followed in all of the schools of the state. The boards of education and trustees of the several cities and school districts of the state shall require instruction to be given in such courses, by the teachers employed in the schools therein. All pupils attending such schools, in the eighth and higher grades, shall attend upon such instruction.

Similar courses of instruction shall be prescribed and maintained in private schools in the state, and all pupils in such schools in grades or classes corresponding to the instruction in the eighth and higher grades of the public schools shall attend upon such courses, and

WHEREAS, Section 802 of the New York State Education Law reads, in relevant part:

§802. Instruction relating to the flag; holidays.

1. It shall be the duty of the commissioner to prepare, for the use of the public schools of the state, a program providing for a salute to the flag and daily pledge of allegiance to the flag, and instruction in its correct use and display which shall include, as a minimum, specific instruction regarding respect for the flag of the United States of America, its display and use as provided by federal statute and regulation and such other patriotic exercises as may be deemed by him to be expedient, under such regulations and instructions as may best meet the varied requirements of the different grades in such schools. However, such instruction shall include, as

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a minimum, the provisions of sections one hundred seventy through one hundred seventy-seven of title thirty-six of the United States Code, and

WHEREAS, the learning standard for Civics, Citizenship and Government, currently reads in its entirety:

“Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the necessity for establishing governments; the governmental systems of the United States and other nations; the United States Constitution; the basic civic values of American constitutional democracy; and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, including avenues of participation.”, and

WHEREAS, the current New York State learning standard for Civics, Citizenship and Government should be reviewed to ensure compliance with Sections 801 and 802 of the New York State Education Law, and

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the Board of Regents to review and, thereafter, consider amending the learning standard for Civics, Citizenship and Government, to read substantially as follows:

Social Studies Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship, and Government

“Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the necessity for establishing governments, with particular attention to the need to secure the individual’s Creator-endowed, unalienable Rights; the history, meaning, significance and effect of the provisions of the United States Declaration of Independence, the Constitution for the State of New York, as amended; the basic civic values of the American democratic Republic; the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, including avenues of participation and respect for the flag of the United States of America, its display and use as provided by sections one hundred seventy through one hundred seventy-seven of title thirty-six of the United States Code; and the governmental systems of the United States and other nations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little; Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec; the New York State Assembly and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders; and the New York State Board of Regents.