

2014-1

# LEE COUNTY

*Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow*

## **RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE NCSBA SCHOOL VOUCHER LAWSUIT AGAINST THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD IN THAT LAWSUIT**

**WHEREAS**, each Local Education Agency (LEA) in North Carolina receives substantial funding from local taxpayers as approved by its corresponding Board of County Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, those tax dollars are expressly intended for expenditure only on those tasks and purposes stated in the budget approved by the County Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lee County School System expends some of the appropriated tax dollars on dues and fees for the North Carolina School Board Association (NCSBA); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners in Lee County has neither appropriated nor approved the expenditure of tax dollars for use in any litigation against the State of North Carolina or its jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCSBA is using tax dollars to pursue a lawsuit against the State of North Carolina seeking to prevent the General Assembly from approving a form of education vouchers through which low income families would have greater opportunity to choose the best schools for their children; and

**WHEREAS**, this lawsuit causes financial harm to the State and Lee County, regardless of the outcome of the lawsuit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lee County School Board has voted unanimously to join the NCSBA in that lawsuit without first expressing its intent to, seeking approval of, or otherwise coordinating with the Board of County Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lee County School Board's support of the NCSBA lawsuit may be perceived as an endorsement of the use of our tax dollars (paid to NCSBA in the form of dues or fees) for purposes of suing the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lee County School Board's support of the NCSBA's lawsuit is an embarrassment to the county's hard working taxpayers and could prejudice the North Carolina General Assembly's view of the values and integrity of our fair county.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Lee County Board of Commissioners that:

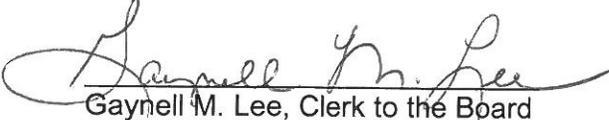
1. The Commissioners expressly disagree with the Lee County School Board's decision to support or join the NCSBA lawsuit that seeks to overturn Session Law 2013-360 implementing Opportunity Grants for low income families in the State of North Carolina; and
2. The Commissioners support the General Assembly in implementing a system of Disability Scholarships and Scholarship Grants for low income families that give parents greater diversity and choice in choosing where to school their children; and

3. This and other similar actions will compel Lee County Commissioners to exercise even closer scrutiny of the Lee County School Board's budget for the upcoming school year; and
4. The Commissioners wish to express to the North Carolina General Assembly the County's sincere apology for this specious action by the Lee County School Board and pray this action does not reflect poorly on Lee County or its taxpayers.
5. A copy of this signed Resolution will be sent to the Speaker of the House, to the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Lieutenant Governor, and all legislators representing Lee County in the North Carolina General Assembly.

Adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2014.

  
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Charles T. Parks, Chairman  
Lee County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
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Gaynell M. Lee, Clerk to the Board