

## RESOLUTION

Resolution of the Obion County Board of Education encouraging the Tennessee General Assembly to place the interest of students above any other by recognizing the value of appointed superintendents and rejecting any attempt to revert to superintendent elections; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the Obion County Board of Education is responsible for providing a local system of public education; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of school superintendents was the cornerstone of the Education Improvement Act of 1992, patterning school governance after the business model, with elected school boards responsible for setting policy and board-appointed chief executive officers in charge of day-to-day administration of schools; and

WHEREAS, the Education Improvement Act and the appointment of superintendents have provided greater flexibility at the local level to operate schools and made school systems more accountable for results; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of superintendents provides a broader pool of qualified candidates and removes residency limitations, allowing the selection to be based solely on professional qualifications and leadership skills rather than the political savvy of only those individuals living in a particular district and willing to run for office; and

WHEREAS, the appointed superintendent is accountable to the board of education and may be replaced for failure to achieve the standards and goals established by the local board and the state; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of the superintendent ensures cooperation and a common vision with the board of education to improve student achievement and overall school performance; and

WHEREAS, history in Tennessee has shown that most elected superintendents are voted out of office after one term – just around the time school systems, students, and the community can begin to benefit from their increased knowledge and experience; and

WHEREAS, only three states in the entire country (Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi) continue to participate in the outdated practice of electing school superintendents, electing less than one percent of the nearly 15,000 superintendents in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly will undoubtedly continue to face pressure to revert to elected superintendents, particularly from some local funding bodies reluctant to increase education funding and improve school system budgets and frustrated with the lead advocacy roles of appointed superintendents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Obion County, Tennessee, meeting in regular session on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011, that:

SECTION 1. The Obion County Board of Education encourages the Tennessee General Assembly to place the interest of students above any other by recognizing the value of appointed superintendents and rejecting any attempt to revert to superintendent elections.

SECTION 2. A copy of this **Resolution** shall be transmitted to the Tennessee School Boards Association, and any other interested individual or entity.

SECTION 3. This **Resolution** shall take effect upon adoption, the public welfare requiring it.

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Brian Rainey  
Chairman

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Diane Sanderson  
Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

(Seal)

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David W. Huss, Director of Schools  
Secretary to the Board

Adopted by the Board of Education of Obion County, Tennessee, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011.