



**Resolution by the Mooresville Graded School District Board of Education
Concerning Universal Private School Vouchers**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Constitution guarantees the opportunity to a sound basic education for all children in our state and according to Article 9 “the General Assembly shall provide by taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of free public schools, which shall be maintained at least nine months in every year, and wherein equal opportunities shall be provided for all students”; and,

WHEREAS, the North Carolina courts have upheld that the state of North Carolina, per the Leandro rulings, is not meeting its Constitutional obligation to provide the opportunity for a sound basic education to all public school students; and,

WHEREAS, HB 823/SB 406, Choose Your School, Choose Your Future, is a universal voucher program which is scheduled to direct billions of dollars of available public funds to private schools. Further, private schools are not equally available to all students and have no objective oversight process for how they use public dollars; and,

WHEREAS, unlike public schools, private schools can reject students based on discriminatory criteria established by the private school; and,

WHEREAS, providing public dollars to four separate schooling options, including traditional public schools, public charter schools, private schools, and homeschools, does not provide a “uniform” system of education for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the vastly different mechanisms for oversight and operation of these four education options create an uneven playing field; and,

WHEREAS, access to the various education options is limited to many students based on factors such as, but not limited to, availability of transportation, the need for special education instruction, the ability to provide breakfast and lunch, purchase school supplies, and parental engagement; and,

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Office of State Budget Management projects Iredell Statesville Schools and Mooresville Graded School District will see its state funding drop by \$2,570,944 by FY 2026-27 if this universal voucher program is enacted; and,

WHEREAS, the estimated loss in state funds to Mooresville Graded School District is \$595,709; and,



WHEREAS, when state funding decreases, the percentage of per pupil funding going towards fixed costs, which includes electricity, water, sewer, gas, internet, fuel, etc., increases and the amount of per pupil funding going towards educating students decreases; and,

WHEREAS, the opportunity scholarship was established to provide an opportunity for students in low-income households to have a choice to attend a private school; and,

WHEREAS, the new program proposed by both chambers removes all income caps; and,

WHEREAS, high income families already choose to attend private schools and do not need a public school voucher; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mooresville Graded School District Board of Education opposes any voucher bill or budget provision that does not include a household income limit as part of eligibility criteria and does not meet the North Carolina State Constitutional obligation to provide a free and uniform system of public education to ALL students; and,


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina General Assembly should create a new allotment to cover the fixed costs to operate school buildings that is not included in the per-pupil funding formula; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that

1. The Chair and Superintendent are authorized to disseminate this Resolution to members of the General Assembly and the Governor, and

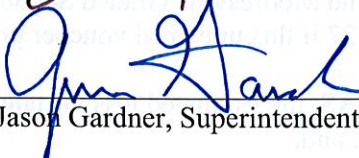
2. The Board encourages parents, students, and other community members to contact their North Carolina legislators to implore them to abide by their oath to uphold the North Carolina State Constitution.

Adopted by the Mooresville Graded School District Board of Education this **26th day of May, 2023**



Mr. Greg Whitfield, Board Chair

Attest:



Dr. Jason Gardner, Superintendent/Secretary



**Resolution by the Mooresville Graded School District Board of Education
Regarding Pay Increases for Teachers, Bus Drivers, and Other School Employees**

WHEREAS, the Mooresville Graded School District Board of Education supports a competitive market salary to recruit and retain high-quality, full-time teachers and other school employees, including bus drivers; and,

WHEREAS, inadequate pay is a long-standing issue for teachers and teacher vacancies have increased dramatically; and,

WHEREAS, at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction reported 5,540 teacher vacancies on the first day of classes – a 46% increase from the 2021-22 school year; and,

WHEREAS, the Senate budget proposal allocates approximately \$407.4 million over the biennium for pay increases to all school district personnel, compared to the House proposal of \$1,068 billion over the biennium – a difference of more than \$660 million; and,

WHEREAS, the Senate proposal includes an average 4.5% increase in teacher pay over the biennium; and,

WHEREAS, the Senate pay plan for teachers with 14 or more years of experience includes a salary increase of \$200 in the first year of the biennium and an additional \$50 in the second year; and,

WHEREAS, the House's budget proposal includes a minimum pay increase of 7.5% for all school employees, an average 10.2% increase for teachers, master's pay, and a 9.5% boost in salary for bus drivers; and,

WHEREAS, at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, 98 of the State's 115 local superintendents responded to a survey conducted by the North Carolina Superintendents Association that showed there were 11,297 school staff vacancies across North Carolina, including 1,342 bus drivers; and,

WHEREAS, districts statewide are facing a crisis because of the school bus driver shortage; and,

WHEREAS, the Senate proposal includes a salary increase of 2.5% in each year of the biennium for school bus drivers which is almost half of that proposed by the House; and,

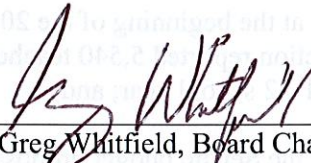
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mooresville Graded School District Board of Education opposes Edition 5 of House Bill 259, "2023 Appropriations Act" and favors Edition 3 of House Bill 259, "2023 Appropriations Act" that includes an average 10.2% increase in teacher pay over the biennium and a 9.5% increase in bus driver pay over the biennium.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that

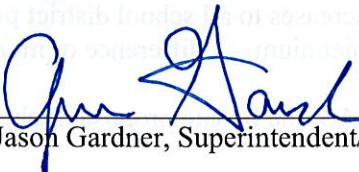
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