

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A RECOMMITMENT TO QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, North Carolina has a constitutional mandate to provide a sound basic education that is essential for achieving an informed community of citizens and a productive work force; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's per pupil spending for K-12 education has fallen from 25th to 46th in the nation for 2014-2015, and North Carolina is a state where a majority of K-12 funding comes from the State, as State funding decreases Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are forced to seek a greater share of funding from their local county in order to maintain the quality of their programs leading to significant inequities between county LEAs; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina teacher pay has fallen from 21st to 42nd in the nation for 2015-2016 and is less than the teacher pay in surrounding States compromising both recruitment and retention of the best qualified and most experienced teachers; and

WHEREAS, there has been a 28% decline in enrollment in teacher preparation programs in the UNC system from 2010 to 2014 creating a critical teacher shortage; and

WHEREAS, the current A-F grading system inadequately accounts for annual student growth and puts too much significance on grade scores and fails to acknowledge the hard work and growth of students and the hard work of their teachers, and

WHEREAS, the school calendar for 2016-2017 does not provide LEAs the flexibility to meet local needs including time for quality teacher professional development and would better serve LEAs by alignment with the community college calendar, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the New Hanover County Board of Education calls for the N.C. General Assembly to fully fund K-12 public education and reject the trend toward shifting education spending to local counties; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the New Hanover County Board of Education supports the General Assembly in its efforts to raise teacher pay so as to make North Carolina competitive with surrounding States; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the New Hanover County Board of Education supports efforts to increase the weight of school growth to 50% in the calculation of school performance scores; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the New Hanover County Board of Education calls upon the General Assembly to grant local LEAs control over their school calendars.

This approved on the 7 day of June 2016,

Donald Hayes, Chair
New Hanover Board of Education

