

## **RABUN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE GOVERNOR'S OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, in November 2016, a constitutional amendment will be included on the ballot and that if approved, would give the State authority to take local control from certain Georgia schools and create a state-run school district,

AND WHEREAS, if approved, local control will be eliminated and schools that have been determined as "failing" by the State will be placed into an "Opportunity School District,"

AND WHEREAS, if approved, the administration of schools placed in the Opportunity School District (OSD) would be overseen by a State appointed superintendent to be confirmed by the senate, with the authority to waive State Board of Education Rules, regulations, policies, procedures or provisions,

AND WHEREAS, if approved, facilities of qualifying schools shall come under control of the OSD where the OSD Superintendent may repurpose the facility for use by an education service provider,

AND WHEREAS, if approved, an opportunity school may be subject to any of the following intervention models, as determined by the OSD Superintendent:

1. Direct management of the opportunity school by the OSD;
2. Shared governance of the opportunity school by the OSD and the local board of education pursuant to a contract in which the local board of education operated the school and the OSD Superintendent has the authority to direct changes to be made at the school;
3. Reconstitution of the school as an OSD charter school in which the OSD works in collaboration with the State Charter Schools Commission to build capacity of petitioning governing board and charter school applications to establish a charter that will be approved by the State Charter Schools Commission; or
4. Closure of an opportunity school which is not enrolled at full capacity and reassigning the students to a non-qualifying school within the local school system. School closure shall be the intervention of last resort.

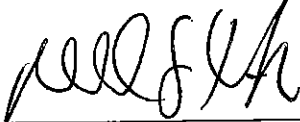
AND WHEREAS, if approved, the total allotment of state and federal funds to the local school system in which an opportunity school is located shall be calculated as otherwise provided in Article 6 of Chapter 2 of this title with an ensuing reduction equivalent to the amount of funds appropriated to the opportunity schools,

AND WHEREAS, taking away local control, diminishing resources, and making efforts to shift the governance of local schools, will do just the opposite for the successful outcomes of Rabun County students, and will not result in the needed infusion of state resources for the full support of Local Educational Agencies,

AND WHEREAS, ensuring real opportunity for every student means providing struggling schools with resources that attract the best faculty and staff, improved access to health and social services, and enhanced supports for academic enrichment opportunities,

THUS, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Public Education for the County of Rabun, opposes the creation of a state-run school district, otherwise known as the "Opportunity School District" and that we shall strive to fully educate our community about the issues raised by this proposed amendment.

Adopted this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.



DAVID SMITH, Board Chairman



MELISSA WILLIAMS, Superintendent