Resolution Recognizing Parental Rights, Stakeholder Authority, and Political Participation

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees for School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties recognizes that the current political climate on a federal, state, and local level have raised serious concerns about the role of stakeholders in education, especially for parents.

WHEREAS, on September 29th, 2021, the National School Board Association asked President Joe Biden to label parents as "domestic terrorists" for questioning local school board policies;

WHEREAS, on September 30th, 2021, the United States Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions that "parents shouldn't be" the "Primary Stakeholder" in their children's education;

WHEREAS, on November 8th, 2021, the South Carolina School Board Association withdrew its membership from the National School Board Association due to its actions;

WHEREAS, politically charged education organizations within South Carolina are actively lobbying to eliminate any parental authority as evidenced by social media posts displayed by SC for ED on January 13th, 2022 stating that "...teachers should have the authority to make decisions about what's best for their students..."

WHEREAS, parents and/or legal guardians are the Primary Stakeholders in their children's lives, including matters relating to education;

WHEREAS, as stakeholders, parents are responsible for what their children are taught;

WHEREAS being responsible, parents have the inalienable right to be a part of the political process with input regarding adopting policy with their local district school boards;

WHEREAS, current board policy KB for the School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties states that, "the board believes it can impact achievement by improving the quality and quantity of parent/family involvement in the education of their children."

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees for School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties affirms that stakeholders in education are crucial and that the district should encourage a complete stakeholder assessment to identify roles and further collaboration between district administration, teachers, community members, and parents.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees for School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties affirms that parents and/or legal guardians are the **Primary** Stakeholders and primary political participants in their children's lives.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees for School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties affirms the following statements and the policy committee will discuss amending policy KB or creating new policy to also identify:

1. Parents are the Primary Stakeholders in their children's education;
2. As Primary Stakeholders, parents have the right to direct their child's education, unless otherwise prohibited by court order or state law;

3. As Primary Stakeholders, parents and/or legal guardians have the inalienable right to be a part of the political process with input regarding the adoption of policy for School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties; AND
4. As Primary Stakeholders, parents and/or legal guardians make decisions about the welfare and health for their children, unless otherwise prohibited by court order or state law.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees for School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties on January 24, 2022.