

RESOLUTION

WETZEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS: West Virginia's entire Public Education system continues to be underfunded, leading to shortages of teachers, service personnel, nurses, librarians, psychologists, counselors and special education staff; and

WHEREAS: County boards of education budgets are already severely strained due to the increasing needs of students and lack of flexibility and adequate funding through the school aid formula; and

WHEREAS: The opioid problem has additionally put a strain on our educational system that has furthered the difficulty in educating our most disadvantaged children due to the increase in number and magnitude of behavioral issues in children; and

WHEREAS: Public schools are at the heart of the community well-being; and

WHEREAS: The creation of Charter Schools will not aid but rather hinder our ability to lift these students out of poverty and other societal challenges; and

WHEREAS: In October 2018, prior to the general election, the Governor, flanked by legislative leaders, promised an additional 5% pay raise for school personnel and additional funding to stabilize the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA); and


WHEREAS: The Senate Education Committee has since originated SB 451, the Omnibus Education Bill which proposes certain reforms to public education with little, if any, meaningful collaboration with education stakeholders in West Virginia; and


WHEREAS: SB 451 now ties school employee pay raises with education reform; and

WHEREAS: Certain provisions of the proposed Omnibus Bill are detrimental to public schools and the ability of the Wetzel County Board of Education to provide a thorough and efficient system for all students in Wetzel County; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Wetzel County Board of Education opposes SB 451, the Omnibus Education Bill, and urges the West Virginia Legislature to pass the Governor's pay raise bill and engage West Virginia's education stakeholders in developing meaningful education reforms necessary to improve educational outcomes for all children served by West Virginia's public schools.



Warren L. Grace, Jr., President


William F. Jones, Vice President


Amy J. Cooley, Board Member


Brian K. Price, Board Member


R. Jay Yeager, Board Member


Edward T. Toman, Superintendent