

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATION { } ACTION { X } CLOSED MEETING { }

SUBJECT: SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - ACTION

Charter School Resolution

BACKGROUND: Following the January 5, 2016 school board meeting, letters were sent to Senator Creigh Deeds and Delegate Benjamin Cline encouraging a NO vote on the Charter School Constitutional Amendment which would divest local school boards of the sole authority to approve charter schools. A Resolution further stating the Boards opinion is included in this packet.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of the Resolution voting NO on the Charter School Constitutional Amendment.

Bath County Public Schools

P.O. Box 67

Warm Springs, Virginia 24484

Phone: 540-839-2722

Fax: 540-839-3040

www.bath.k12.va.us

RESOLUTION

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

NO VOTE on the CHARTER SCHOOL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, in its 2016 session, the General Assembly will be considering a resolution seeking a constitutional amendment to divest local school boards of the sole authority to approve charter schools, vesting authority with a gubernatorial appointed board; and

WHEREAS, local school board, which are elected or appointed by their community and entrusted with the authority to supervise schools, are best equipped to assess the needs of their students and the locality; and

WHEREAS, local school boards are responsible for the outcomes of all schools within the school system, including charter schools; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that charter school outcomes are mixed, with the majority doing no better than the traditional public schools that feed them; and

WHEREAS, state-authorized charter schools would result in a massive unfunded mandate to local school divisions, costing millions of dollars to local taxpayers; now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Bath County School Board hereby opposes the resolution seeking a constitutional amendment to divest local school boards from the sole authority to approve charter schools.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of February 2016.

Roy Burns, Chairman

Sue Hirsh, Division Superintendent

Bath County Public Schools

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January 7, 2016

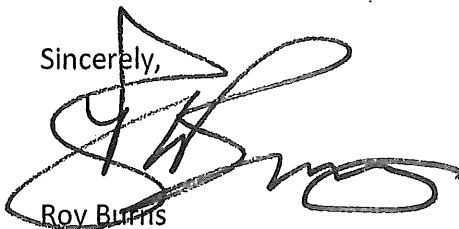
Delegate Benjamin L. Cline
General Assembly Building
P.O. Box 406
Room #722
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Delegate Cline:

Local school boards are best equipped to assess the needs of their students and the locality. Please vote NO on the charter school constitutional amendment which would divest local school boards of the sole authority to approve charter schools. Local school boards are responsible for the outcomes of all schools within school divisions, including charter schools, so they should be solely responsible for the authorization of any new school. Furthermore, a defeat of the constitutional amendment will allow local control of local education resources.

Again, on behalf of the Bath County School Board, we request that you oppose the charter school constitutional amendment.

Sincerely,



Roy Burns

Chairman, Bath County School Board



Sue Hirsh
Division Superintendent

RB:SH:prc

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January 7, 2016

Senator R. Creigh Deeds
Senate of Virginia
Room #432
P.O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Senator Deeds:

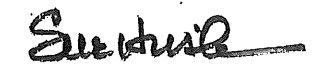
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Again, on behalf of the Bath County School Board, we request that you oppose the charter school constitutional amendment.

Sincerely,



Roy Burns
Chairman, Bath County School Board



Sue Hirsh
Division Superintendent

RB:SH:prc