

PUBLICLY FUNDED VOUCHERS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Bryan County Board of Education is responsible for providing a local system of public education; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly in the 2020 legislative session may entertain legislation that would create a voucher program, also known as educational savings accounts, that would allow students to use public education funds to pay for private school tuition; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Georgia requires that the Georgia General Assembly provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools, with no mention of the maintenance or support of private schools; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia, through work of the Georgia General Assembly, the Georgia Department of Education, the State Board of Education and local school boards, has established recognized standards and measures for accountability in public education; and

WHEREAS, vouchers eliminate public accountability by channeling tax dollars into private schools that do not face state-approved academic standards, do not make budgets public, do not adhere to open meetings and records laws, do not publicly report on student achievement, and do not face the public accountability requirements contained in major federal laws, including special education; and

WHEREAS, vouchers have not been effective at improving student achievement or closing the achievement gap, with the most credible research finding little or no difference in voucher and public school students' performance; and

WHEREAS, vouchers leave many students behind, including those with the greatest needs, due to the fact vouchers channel tax dollars into private schools that are not required to accept all students, nor offer the special services they may need; and

WHEREAS, vouchers give choices to private schools, not students and parents, since private schools decide if they want to accept vouchers, how many and which students they want to admit, and the potentially arbitrary reasons for which they might later dismiss a student; and

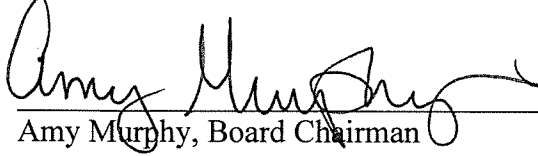
WHEREAS, voucher programs divert critical dollars and commitment from public schools to pay private school tuition for a few students, including many who already attend private schools; and

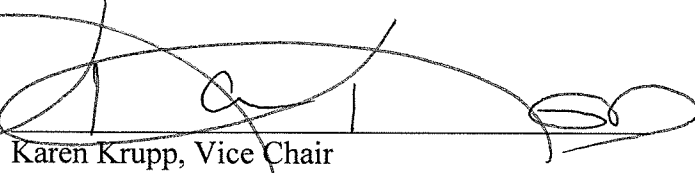
WHEREAS, vouchers are an inefficient use of tax payer money because they compel taxpayers to support two school systems: one public and one private, the latter of which is not accountable to all the taxpayers supporting it; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 17th Day of December, 2019, that the Bryan County Board of Education opposes any legislation or other similar effort to create a voucher

program in Georgia that would divert money intended for public education to private schools or organizations.

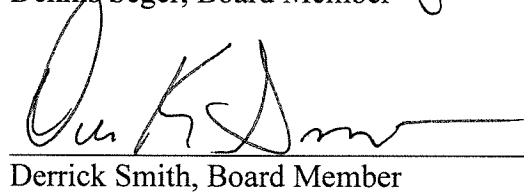
BRYAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

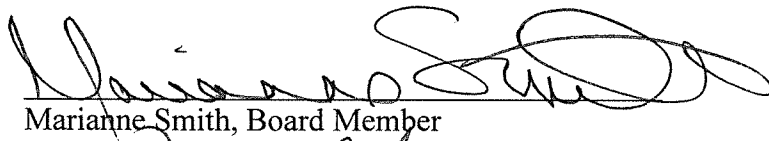

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