



Chairman of the Board Rick Tipton



Stacey Franklin



Tom Cobble



Larry Bible



Minnie Banks



Gary Compton



Mark Rothe



Director of Greene County Schools David McLain

Voucher Resolution

Whereas, the Constitution of the State of Tennessee requires the Tennessee General Assembly to “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 entities;

Whereas, more than 90% of Tennessee students attend their neighborhood public schools;

Whereas, instead of sending money to private schools, we should focus on reducing class sizes in public schools to give our students more one-on-one attention and increasing salaries to address the teacher and staff shortage;

Whereas, unlike public schools, private schools take tax dollars without saying how the money is spent, and millions have been lost to waste, fraud, and abuse at private schools in other states, with no guarantee that taxpayer money goes into the classroom;

Whereas, Tennessee public schools have among the top graduation rates in the country and, at the same time, one of the lowest rates of funding per student, thereby demonstrating their efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars;

Whereas, school voucher programs divert critical funding from public schools;

Whereas, no credible study or research has ever proven the efficacy of school vouchers or demonstrated improvement in student achievement over public schools when voucher programs are implemented;

Whereas, Tennessee has established nationally recognized standards and measures for accountability in public education which do not apply to private programs;

Whereas, school vouchers reduce public accountability by diverting tax dollars to private entities that do not meet state-approved academic or teacher licensure standards, do not make budgets public, do not adhere to open meetings and records laws, do not publicly report student achievement, and do not face the public accountability requirements contained in major federal laws;

Whereas, school vouchers divert tax dollars to private entities that are not required to accept all students nor offer the special services students may need;

Be it resolved, the Greene County Schools opposes school voucher programs that use taxpayer dollars to support private entities and asks the Tennessee General Assembly to vote against any expansion of private school vouchers.

Adopted: February 22, 2024