

# Agenda Request Form

Cherokee County School District

| Meeting Date      |
|-------------------|
| September 1, 2016 |

| Agenda Item Number |
|--------------------|
| B-1                |

| Title   |
|---|
| Resolution - - Governor's Opportunity School District   |
| Requested Action  |
| Board Adoption of Resolution - - Governor's Opportunity School District   |
| Summary Explanation and Background  |
| In light of requests from constituents regarding the School Board's position on the Constitutional Amendment relative to the Governor's Opportunity School District, which will be on the November 2016 General Election ballot, the attached resolution is submitted for consideration by the Board. |
| Major System Priority   |
| Increasing Accountability   |
| Financial Impact  |
| N/A   |
| Exhibits: (List)  |
| Proposed Resolution   |

| Board Action                                    |
|---|
| <i>(For Official School Board Records Only)</i> |

| Source of Additional Information  |
|---|
| Kyla Cromer, Board Chairman <span style="float: right;">(678) 493-8088</span> |

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Approved in Open Board Meeting on: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

By: \_\_\_\_\_ (School Board Chairman)



## RESOLUTION - - GOVERNOR'S OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2015, the Cherokee County School Board ("School Board") unanimously approved its 2016 Legislative Program which included as a priority, "Align current and future legislative initiatives (e.g., Governor's proposed Opportunity School District Constitutional Amendment) with State Constitutional provisions regarding local control and management of public schools, rather than usurping locally-elected School Boards' authority;" and,

WHEREAS, the School Board supports the authority of the State's local boards of education to manage and control the operation of the local public schools, opposing any legislation that attempts to override the constitutional authority of locally-elected boards to make educational decisions for their communities; and,

WHEREAS, in November 2016, a State Constitutional amendment will be included on the ballot, which would, if approved, give the State authority to take control from certain Georgia schools and create a State-operated school district; and,

WHEREAS, if approved, local control will be eliminated and schools that have been determined as "failing" by the State may be placed into an "Opportunity School District;" and,

WHEREAS, if approved, the administration of schools placed in the "Opportunity School District" would be overseen by a State-appointed Superintendent, to be confirmed by the Senate, with authority to waive State board of education rules, regulations, policies, procedures or provisions; and,

WHEREAS, if approved, facilities of qualifying schools shall come under control of the "Opportunity School District," where the "Opportunity School District" Superintendent may repurpose the facility for use by an education service provider; and,

WHEREAS, if approved, qualifying schools may be subject to any of the following intervention models, as determined by the "Opportunity School District" Superintendent:

- (1) Direct management of the qualifying school by the "Opportunity School District;" or,
- (2) Shared governance of the qualifying school by the "Opportunity School District" and the local board of education pursuant to a contract in which the local board of education operates the school and the "Opportunity School

District" Superintendent has the authority to direct changes to be made at the school; or,

- (3) Reconstitution of the qualifying school as an "Opportunity School District" charter school in which the "Opportunity School District" works in collaboration with the State Charter Schools Commission to build capacity of petitioning governing boards and charter school applications to establish a charter that will be approved by the State Charter Schools Commission; or,
- (4) Closure of the qualifying school which is not enrolled at full capacity and reassigning the students to a non-qualifying school within the local school system. School closure shall be the intervention of last resort; and,

WHEREAS, if approved, the total allotment of state and federal funds to the local school system in which a qualifying school is located will be calculated as otherwise provided in enabling legislation of this title with an ensuing reduction equivalent to the amount of funds appropriated to any such schools; and,

WHEREAS, other state takeover efforts (e.g., Louisiana and Tennessee) have not proven to be successful and have not improved student achievement results; and,

WHEREAS, taking away local control, diminishing resources, and making efforts to shift the governance of local schools, will do just the opposite for the successful outcomes of Cherokee County School District students, and will not result in the needed infusion of state resources for the full support of Local Educational Agencies; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring real opportunity for every student means providing struggling schools with resources that attract the best faculty and staff, improved access to health and social services, and enhanced supports for academic enrichment opportunities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cherokee County School Board opposes creation of a state-run school district, otherwise known as the "Opportunity School District," and that we commit to fully educate our community about the issues raised by this proposed Amendment.

Adopted this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2016.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kyla Cromer, Chairman  
Patsy Jordan, Vice-Chairman  
Mike Chapman  
John Harmon  
Clark Menard  
Kelly Poole  
Robert Rechsteiner