



Johnson City Board of Education Special Meeting

January 21, 2025

The Johnson City Board of Education met in regular session on January 21, 2025, at 8:30 AM in the Board Room at the Central Office.

Attendance Taken at 8:34 AM.

Dr. Ginger Carter:	Present
Mr. Tom Hager:	Present
Mrs. Kathy Hall:	Present
Mr. Jonathan Kinnick:	Present
Celia Martin:	Absent
Rick Smith:	Present
Mrs. Paula Treece:	Present

Present: 6, Absent: 1.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PURPOSE OF MEETING

- Mrs. Celia Martin was unable to attend the meeting, but supports the resolution.
A. Resolution, Opposing the Education Freedom Act
Motion to approve the Resolution, Opposing the Education Freedom Act. With a motion by Mrs. Paula Treece and a second by Dr. Ginger Carter, the motion passed.

Dr. Ginger Carter:	YES
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Mr. Tom Hager:	YES
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Mrs. Kathy Hall:	YES
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Mr. Jonathan Kinnick:	YES
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Celia Martin:	Absent
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Rick Smith:	YES
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Mrs. Paula Treece:	YES
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YES: 6, NO: 0, Absent: 1

- Dr. Ginger Carter thanked Representative Rebecca Alexander and Representative David Hawk for publicly saying no to vouchers. Dr. Carter also urged the community to contact Senator Rusty Crowe, Representative Tim Hicks and surrounding legislators.
- Mr. Jonathan Kinnick noted that the hold harmless clause is very misleading with TISA funding.
- Mrs. Paula Treece commented that hurricane funding should never be tied with school vouchers. Mrs. Treece also urged the community to contact local legislators this week before they go into special session at the end of the month.
- Mr. Rick Smith agreed that relief funding should not be tied to school funding.
- Mr. Tom Hager offered support to Representative Renea Jones who serves the families of Carter and Unicoi County.
- Mrs. Kathy Hall commented that our school system is created by our legislature and our constitution. If there are failing schools, then it's our legislators' responsibility to help support those schools for all students and not just remove funding.

2. **ADJOURNMENT**

8:44 AM

Chairman

Board Secretary



JOHNSON CITY SCHOOLS

Post Office Box 1517, Johnson City, TN 37605 www.jcschools.org (423) 434-5200 Fax: (423) 218-4968
Dr. Steve Barnett, Superintendent of Schools

A RESOLUTION OF THE JOHNSON CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION OPPOSING THE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 12 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee requires the General Assembly "shall provide for the maintenance, support, and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Johnson City Board of Education works diligently with our city leaders, administrators, staff, and parents to ensure all students in our community have equitable access to educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Johnson City Schools educates and serves every eligible student in our community who wishes to enroll; and

WHEREAS, Johnson City Schools has a more than 100 year history of providing a wide array of excellent academic, athletic, social, and arts programs through effective and strategic stewardship of public funds; and

WHEREAS, the Johnson City Board of Education is committed to ensuring local control over our schools through transparency and accountability, reflecting the values and needs of the Johnson City community; and

WHEREAS, the Johnson City Board of Education believes all educational institutions, both private and public, receiving public funds should have the same level of academic and financial transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, private educational institutions do not face the same state-approved academic standards, transparency requirements, accountability methods, and performance measures as public educational institutions, nor are they required to accept all students and offer needed specialized programs; and

WHEREAS, diverting critically needed public funds to private educational institutions through vouchers/Education Savings Accounts threaten Johnson City Schools' ability to maintain its exemplary quality of programs and services and we believe vouchers would also be in direct conflict to our Mission, which is to provide the highest quality public education to all students in a caring, safe, and inclusive environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Johnson City Board of Education unanimously opposes the "Education Freedom Act" and strongly urges the Tennessee General Assembly to reject such legislation and/or any other similar voucher or Education Savings Account legislation that would divert public dollars away from public schools.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jonathan Kinnick, Chair Paula Treece, Vice Chair Rick Smith, Secretary
Dr. Ginger Carter Thomas Hager, Jr Kathy Hall Celia Martin

The mission of the Johnson City Schools is to enable all students to achieve excellence.

