

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, providing a quality public education system is a core responsibility for State Government and essential to the economic prosperity and quality of life for every citizen in South Carolina, and

WHEREAS, policy decisions regarding public education's expectations, funding, delivery, and evaluation are some of the most important matters that our elected officials are entrusted by voters to act upon, and

WHEREAS, elected officials are directly accountable to taxpayers and represent citizens from all walks of life with diverse experiences, socio-economic levels, and needs, and

WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina has an elected General Assembly, Governor, State Superintendent, and a State Board of Education representing each judicial circuit to legislate and regulate public education, and

WHEREAS, the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) was founded in 1998 to provide regular, routine and ongoing review of our State's education system, and

WHEREAS, the EOC 's role has expanded dramatically since its inception, and its members and staff no longer serve in an oversight capacity but act as a governing body setting important public policy and appropriating millions of taxpayer dollars with no direct accountability to citizens, and

WHEREAS, the members of the EOC are political appointees who receive no public screening and are selected by only six elected officials, yet have assumed much of the power and authority vested by voters in the duly elected members of the South Carolina General Assembly and the South Carolina State Superintendent of Education, and

WHEREAS, the members of the EOC are not selected geographically, leaving many citizens of South Carolina without a voice or representation when important policy decisions impacting public education, local schools, parents, children, communities and taxpayers are decided, and

WHEREAS, the EOC and the State Board of Education are charged with similar responsibilities and therefore replicate services and duplicate staff, increasing the tax burden for South Carolinians, and

WHEREAS, the EOC is often in conflict with the vision and recommendations of the duly elected South Carolina Superintendent of Education, who has no vote on the EOC, but is accountable to the people of South Carolina and charged with providing the leadership and services to ensure a system of public education through which all students become educated, responsible and contributing citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the School District of Greenville County is committed to a strong and transparent accountability system for ourselves, our schools, our district, our students, and our employees, as well as the elected and appointed officials who set policy for our futures.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the members of the Board of Trustees of Greenville County Schools call on the South Carolina General Assembly to dissolve the Education Oversight Committee and return the responsibilities bestowed upon it to the members of the General Assembly, State Superintendent of Education, and the State Board of Education, thereby returning these important educational policy decisions to the people of South Carolina.

OCTOBER 10, 2017