

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CURRENT ELECTION METHOD FOR THE
BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Board of Education is charged with making decisions that affect all public school students and staff in Buncombe County;

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Board of Education consists of seven members elected on a nonpartisan basis for staggering, four-year terms;

WHEREAS, since at least 1975, six members of the Buncombe County Board of Education have been elected from school attendance zones and one member elected from the school administrative unit at large;

WHEREAS, all registered voters in Buncombe County may vote for all seven members of the Buncombe County Board of Education;

WHEREAS, the current election method ensures each attendance zone (i.e., Enka, Erwin, North Buncombe, Owen, Reynolds, and Roberson) all have one representative on the Board;

WHEREAS, the current proposed legislation, **HB66**, will require the redrawing of the Board's electoral districts and the districts will no longer align with the school system's attendance zones;

WHEREAS, the new electoral districts will lead to Board configurations where the members representing the smaller attendance zones (i.e., Enka, Owen, and North Buncombe) do not live in the attendance zone;

WHEREAS, in 75 of the state's 115 school districts, citizens may vote for all members of their Board of Education (31 have districts and 44 are completely at large);

WHEREAS, in neighboring counties Haywood, Henderson, McDowell, Rutherford, Transylvania, and Yancey, citizens may vote for all members of their Board of Education;

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners supports the current election method of the Buncombe County Board of Education;

WHEREAS, there is no organized citizen effort to change the election method of the Buncombe County Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the current election method has resulted in school boards made up of politically and ideologically diverse individuals that have worked together for the betterment of Buncombe County Schools and the students they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. All members of the Board make decisions that affect all public school students and staff in Buncombe County, while representing their own district; and
2. The Buncombe County Board of Education does not support the proposed change to its election method, that will possibly lead to some attendance zones no longer being represented on the Board.
3. The Board requests the members of the General Assembly to vote in opposition to the bill.

Adopted by the Buncombe County Board of Education; this, the 1st day of June, 2023.

By: _____
Ann B. Franklin, Madam Chair
Buncombe County Board of Education

Attest: _____
Rob Jackson, Ed. D., Superintendent
Buncombe County Board of Education