



**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

ITEM NO. 6

**DATE OF MEETING:** February 19, 2013

**REQUESTED BY:** Commissioner Jimmy Tate

**SHORT TITLE:** Judge James Faison/District Attorney Ben David: New Anti-Bullying Policy Efforts

**BACKGROUND:** Judge Faison and Mr. David will be present to give an update on the new Anti-Bullying Policy Efforts. The Board of Education unanimously approved the attached resolution on February 4, 2013, which was presented by Judge Faison.



## **Pender County Board of Education**

### **Resolution**

### **Against Bullying**

**WHEREAS**, bullying is an increasingly prevalent societal menace in the homes, schools and communities throughout our state and nation, and is disruptive to the efforts of students to pursue academic excellence and acquire life skills in a safe, secure, peaceful, and harmonious, environment conducive to learning without fear, and

**WHEREAS**, bullying is an imbalance of power carried out by repeated and systematic acts of harassment and attacks on others by individuals and groups through verbal or non-verbal, written, or electronic communication including taunts, gestures, name-calling, and physical violence or threatening communication intended to place the student, teacher, or other school employees in actual or reasonable fear of harm to their person or property, and has the potential for producing negative life-threatening consequences that are long lasting and life changing for the perpetrator and the victim of bullying, and

**WHEREAS**, bullying involves harassing behavior by the perpetrator who indiscriminately targets individuals and victimizing those who may actually or appear to possess differentiating characteristics that include, but are not limited to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability, or because the victims actually or appear to associate with persons who have or are perceived to have one or more of these characteristics, and

**WHEREAS**, the National Parent Teachers Association, along with the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control acknowledge that bullying that goes unchallenged produces risk factors in the lives of the bully and the victims of bullying, that increase the likelihood of those individuals becoming violent adults, domestic violence offenders, and/or child abusers, and

**WHEREAS**, the psychological and emotional trauma that victims of bullying are forced to suffer can lead to irreparable negative consequences associated with social isolation, anti-social behaviors, and suicide, and

**WHEREAS**, as mandated by the North Carolina School Violence Prevention Act, the Pender County School System, along with the school systems throughout North Carolina have implemented policies and procedures to prevent, forbid, and discourage bullying on school property, on school vehicles, and at any school-sponsored function, and

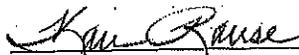
**WHEREAS**, bullying can be eradicated from the homes, schools, and communities of Pender County by parents and adults who are educated about the dynamics of bullying, and are involved in preventing and solving incidents of bullying, are engaging in dialogue and interacting with the children to ensure adult support and discussing techniques and strategies to defend against bullying, and who are working with school personnel, and providing appropriate intervention as needed, and

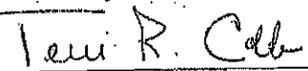
**WHEREAS**, the Pender County Board of Education shall strive to help prevent youth violence and to promote tolerance and understanding throughout the schools and community, and now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pender County Board of Education offers its unequivocal support and encouragement to every school unit and all school personnel in the Pender County to implement and execute anti-bullying policies and procedures with all due diligence, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Pender County Board of Education urges parents, religious institutions, civic and community organizations to cooperate with school personnel and other child advocacy organizations to promote anti-bullying efforts, and to take proactive measures through implementing programs, functions, events, and public announcements to help raise awareness to and to eliminate the problems of bullying in the homes, schools, and communities of Pender County.

This Resolution was presented by District Court Judge James H. Faison, III, and was adopted by the Pender County Board of Education on this the 4 of February 2013.

  
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Karen Rouse, Chair  
Pender County Board of Education

  
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Dr. Terri R. Cobb, Superintendent  
Pender County Schools