

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Board Policy 2610, Board Chair Todd Sutton asked Tharrington Smith, LLP to perform an independent investigation of an allegation that Board member Ronald Johnson secretly recorded a discussion among Board members, during a closed-session meeting of the Board, about the topic of administrator salaries, and then played a portion of that recording for an employee after the Board meeting (hereinafter “Allegation 1”);

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Board Policy 2610, Board Chair Sutton asked Tharrington Smith, LLP to investigate an allegation that Board member Johnson attempted to interfere in a student assignment matter involving two special education students (hereinafter “Allegation 2”);

**WHEREAS**, counsel from Tharrington Smith, LLP investigated Allegation 1 and Allegation 2, consistent with Board Chair Sutton’s request;

**WHEREAS**, Board Chair Sutton asked Tharrington Smith, LLP to present reports describing the investigations and findings, attached as Exhibit 1 (pertaining to Allegation 1) and Exhibit 2 (pertaining to Allegation 2), to the Board for review at the special Board meeting on August 24, 2022;

**WHEREAS**, the report regarding Allegation 1 (Exhibit 1) reflects that Board member Johnson was interviewed on August 1, 2022, regarding the allegations about a secret recording, and that Board member Johnson did not respond to subsequent requests for additional information, including regarding specific employees, and copies of recordings he stated he had taken;

**WHEREAS**, the report regarding Allegation 2 (Exhibit 2) reflects that Board member Johnson did not respond to e-mails dated August 18 and 19, 2022, requesting an opportunity to speak with him regarding the allegations of interfering with a student assignment matter;

**WHEREAS**, as required by North Carolina General Statutes § 115C-47 (57), the Board is required to adopt a resolution or policy containing a code of ethics;

**WHEREAS**, on July 13, 2021, the Board adopted the current version of Board Policy 2120 – Code of Ethics for School Board Members by unanimous vote of the six members in attendance at the meeting, including Board member Ronald Johnson;

**WHEREAS**, Board Policy 2120, subsection (B)(7), requires Board members to commit to “not make secret recordings, in any format, on school system property, at school- or Board-related events or meetings, or otherwise connected to the business of the Board or the Johnson County Public Schools;”

**WHEREAS**, Board Policy 2120, subsection (B)(14), requires Board members to commit to “refrain from using the board member’s position on the Board for personal gain or partisan gain;”

**WHEREAS**, the investigator for Allegation 1 made the findings reflected in Exhibit 1:

**WHEREAS**, the investigator for Allegation 2 made the findings reflected in Exhibit 2:

**WHEREAS**, the Board concludes from these investigative reports that Board member Johnson violated Board Policy 2120 per the findings articulated in the reports.

**WHEREAS**, due to the seriousness of these violations, the Board desires to take action to protect the rights of school system students and employees and to uphold the integrity of the Board;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Johnston County Board of Education by a vote of \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ does hereby **CENSURE** Board member Ronald Johnson and finds him in violation of Board Policy 2120 for the reasons articulated in the reports.

**ADOPTED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022.

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Todd Sutton, Chair

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Terri Sessoms, Vice Chair