Scott County Schools

Memo

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting Continuing Contract

Attached for your information is a copy of the resolution presented by Mr. Justin Forrester, SCEA President, at the October 2, 2012 Regular School Board Meeting.

Attachment

Resolution Supporting Continuing Contract

WHEREAS:

The Constitution of Virginia requires that the General Assembly seek to "provide a system of free public elementary and secondary schools for all children of school age throughout the Commonwealth and...seek to ensure an education program of high quality is established and continually maintained" (Article VIII section 1).

WHEREAS:

The General Assembly and Board of Education find in the Standards of Quality that the quality of education is dependent upon high-quality instructional personnel and quality instruction (Virginia Code section 22.1-253.13:1).

WHEREAS:

In 1968 the General Assembly adopted continuing contract laws establishing uniform employment practices, delineating causes for teacher dismissal, and providing employment security for teachers after a three-year probationary period.

WHEREAS:

Continuing contract laws benefit public school students, their parents, the community and the Commonwealth:

- By assuring the high-quality educational program and curriculum set by the local school board in compliance with the Standards of Quality is delivered by competent professional teachers;
- By attracting talented individuals to secure professional employment;
- By retaining high-quality professional teachers while minimizing expenses caused by high turnover;
- By assuring stable and consistent instruction provided by professional teachers not subject to arbitrary dismissal;
- By fostering professional experience and subject understanding with teachers protected from replacement based on cost;

- By assuring professional teachers uphold high academic and behavior standards;
- By assuring school administrators and managers conduct professional teacher assessment and evaluation;
- By assuring nepotism or political favoritism do not influence teacher employment and school instruction;

NOW THEREFORE

The Scott County School Board resolves to support continuing contract laws and oppose removing continuing contract protections from Virginia public school teachers.

10-2-12