

Whereas, A.B. Combs Elementary School, a part of the Wake County Public School system, is internationally recognized as a leader in elementary education through its leadership magnet program, teachers, academic achievements, and specials programs; and

Whereas, A.B. Combs Elementary School does not have extra classrooms and already hosts classes in a modular building and multiple trailers; and

Whereas, A.B. Combs Elementary School offers eight specials for all students as a part of its curriculum: Art, Music, Library, Imagineering, Chinese, and Physical Education in dedicated classrooms, and Technology and Guidance through visits to classrooms; and

Whereas, the state of North Carolina has mandated that Kindergarten through third grade class sizes change to Kindergarten: 18 students, First Grade: 16 students, Second Grade: 17 students, Third Grade: 17 students; and

Whereas, the state of North Carolina has not provided funding for the additional staff needed to implement the new class size mandates; and

Whereas, the state of North Carolina has not provided capital funding to create additional classroom space needed to implement the new class size mandates; and

Whereas, neither the state of North Carolina nor the County of Wake can provide additional classrooms to A.B. Combs Elementary or other schools in Wake County in time for the implementation of the 2018-19 school year; and

Whereas, the A.B. Combs Elementary PTA is an independent organization that exists to support A.B. Combs Elementary School, its teachers, families, and students; be it

Resolved, that the A.B. Combs Elementary PTA will inform its members and other interested parties about the direct effects of the class size mandate such as: using inappropriate classroom space; overcrowding some classrooms and thus reducing instructional quality; and causing an overall reduction of the instructional programs at A.B. Combs Elementary; be it further

Resolved, that the A.B. Combs Elementary PTA will ask its members and other interested parties to take action by contacting elected officials, key decision makers, and other advocacy steps; be it further

Resolved, that the A.B. Combs Elementary PTA opposes the unfunded class size mandate; be it further

Resolved, that the A.B. Combs Elementary PTA formally requests that the General Assembly of North Carolina restore local flexibility over class size to the original House Bill 13, which allows local districts flexibility to change the Kindergarten to Third student ratio up to six additional students in an individual class or average ratio increase by three additional students per school and/or establish a hardship waiver for school districts whose quality of education will be diminished through the class size mandate; be it further

Resolved, that the A.B. Combs Elementary PTA will support legislation that gives local school districts funding, authority, and flexibility to support enhancement teachers and special programs in schools.

This resolution is adopted with unanimous support by the governing board of A.B. Combs Elementary PTA on November 20, 2017.

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Date: November 20, 2017

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President: Sarah London