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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/6/2020

CONTACT:

Todd Sutton
Chairman, Johnston County Board of Education
toddsutton@johnston.k12.nc.us

JC Board of Education Statement

The following is a statement from the Johnston County Board of Education:

The Johnston County Board of Education today received a letter of resignation from Board Attorney James R. Lawrence Jr. Effective today, Mr. Lawrence no longer serves as the attorney for the Board of Education. As announced at our February 11th meeting, the Board has established a Legal Services Committee to explore whether to continue contracting with outside counsel or to hire an in-house lawyer to meet the school district's legal needs. The committee's work is underway.

See attachment below:

N. LEO DAUGHTRY
STEPHEN C. WOODARD, JR. +
JAMES R. LAWRENCE, JR.
LUTHER D. STARLING, JR. *
KELLY K. DAUGHTRY **
ANNETTE CHANCY STARLING
JAMES C. WILLIAMS ***
KARLIE LOVE HUDSON
ANDREW J. DICKERHOFF
JESSICA C. CARTER

DAUGHTRY, WOODARD, LAWRENCE & STARLING
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SMITHFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA 27577-1960

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+ Retired
* Also licensed in the District of Columbia
and in the State of Georgia
** Board Certified Specialist in Family Law
*** Also licensed in the State of South Carolina

March 6, 2020

Todd Sutton, Chairman of the Board
Johnston County Board of Education
Post Office Box 1336
Smithfield, North Carolina 27577

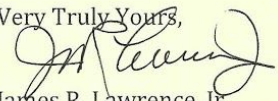
Dear Todd:

For over the past twenty years, I have had the honor and pleasure of serving the Johnston County Board of Education as its Board Attorney. Since I started as Board Attorney, the school system has expanded from approximately 20 schools to 46 schools. The system also went from serving approximately 14,000 students to now serving over 37,000 students. As the system has grown, so has its legal needs. I have been advised that the Board of Education is exploring other options for legal services, including in-house legal counsel. I respect their decision. Therefore, I feel that it is time for me to reassess my legal practice and move away from doing work for the school system.

Effective immediately, I am resigning my position as attorney for the Johnston County Board of Education. I will continue in private practice with my law firm assisting people with legal and education issues and other matters that arise. I will be glad to assist the Board in the transition period upon request while they employ new counsel for their legal services.

Again, I wish to thank past board members, superintendents, and school personnel that I have worked with over the past years for their dedication, support, hard work and friendship.

I remain,

Very Truly Yours,

James R. Lawrence, Jr.

JRL;JR/mms

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