

Resolution No. 25-05-015

SPONSORED BY: Commissioners Mike Akard, John E. Giles, Nick Bright, Misty Davis, and Jessica Hannah, and
Ron French

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EXPRESSING ITS
EXTREME CONCERN, DISPLEASURE, AND DISAPPOINTMENT WITH LOCAL INSTITUTIONS
REGARDING RECENT DECISIONS CONCERNING A FORMER TEACHER’S ADMITTED CRIMES
AGAINST CHILDREN.**

WHEREAS, local institutions serve as a cornerstone of democracy and is intended to ensure fairness, accountability, and equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, the recent extremely displeasurable and disappointing judgment involving such heinous, horrific crimes against innocent children, five admitted counts under T.C.A. 39-13-101(a)(3)—offensive touching—should never be considered as reasonable for such a longstanding history of allegations to result in a “slap-on-the-wrist” punishment; and

WHEREAS, this case (concerning multiple allegations spanning over nearly 20 years of crimes committed against innocent children) should have called for felony charges receiving a just punishment fitting the serious nature of the criminal activity rather than a judgment that amounts to less than a “slap” on the wrist for the former Blount County Schools teacher who did indeed plead guilty on September 4, 2024, to five charges of offensively touching students; and

WHEREAS, initial reports of these crimes being first made public spurred this commission to adopt Resolution No. 24-09-013 on September 19, 2024, that requested that the situation be investigated further to better determine “who knew what, and when did they know it?”, which subsequently resulted in the Blount County Board of Education ordering a thorough, independent third-party audit of all Human Resources personnel records dating 2015 to present (despite allegations against Dalton going back as far as 2005 and totaling more than 80 complaints of misconduct) involving all existing reports of misconduct of a sexual nature involving personnel and students within Blount County Schools to help determine if there have been any similar trends;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Blount County Board of Commissioners that we formally express our extreme concern, displeasure, and disappointment regarding local institutions’ insufficient actions concerning this particular case in which an admitted offender of misconduct against innocent children was not sufficiently punished given the 20-year history involved that included over 80 complaints of misconduct, in that the offender:

- A. Did not have to spend even one night in jail, despite the possibility of serving jail time;
- B. Did not have to face having a conviction reported on his permanent record and has the option of having the conviction expunged, despite the potential for the conviction to stand permanently;
- C. Did not have to have his name listed on any sexual offenders list, despite the possibility of having his name so listed; and
- D. Did not have to surrender his teaching license to help ensure he cannot continue committing the same heinous acts, despite such surrender being completely possible and in the public interest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Blount County Board of Commissioners, hereby express our gratitude to the Blount County Board of Education for taking our recommendation to task in engaging an independent third-party auditor to perform the thorough personnel records audit of the Blount County School system’s Human Resources policies and procedures that was recently completed, and we express our hope and desire to see further investigation into allegations of misconduct of a sexual nature discovered through the recent audit properly performed so that any potential criminal charges can be filed if enough evidence exists to do so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Blount County Board of Commissioners, hereby request the Blount County Mayor's office mail a letter and copies of the newspaper articles relating to this incident to the other 94 county mayors in Tennessee advising them of this person.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTION

ATTEST

Commission Chairman

County Clerk

County Mayor

Date

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Vetoed