

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MOTION TO WITHHOLD FROM THE WELDON CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION ALLOTMENT THE AMOUNT OF \$13,510 PER MONTH TO FUND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION’S APPOINTMENT OF DR. RODNEY SHOTWELL AS THE WELDON INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT BEGINNING ON July 11, 2024.

August 1, 2024

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 5, of the North Carolina Constitution provides that “The State Board of Education shall supervise and administer the free public school system and the educational funds provided for its support... and shall make all needed rules and regulations in relation thereto, subject to laws enacted by the General Assembly”; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute Section 115C-408 provides, in pertinent part, “The State Board shall have general supervision and administration of the educational funds provided by the State and federal government,” and “the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall administer any educational funds through the Department of Public Instruction in accordance with all needed rules and regulations adopted by the State Board of Education;” and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute Section 115C-105.39(c)(1) authorizes the State Board of Education to “appoint an interim superintendent in a local school administrative unit; (1) upon the identification of more than half the schools in that unit as low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37; and

WHEREAS, the Weldon City School District is currently identified as a continually low-performing school district under G.S. 115C-105.37 and 115C-105.37A; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2024, the Weldon City Board of Education hired Dr. Rodney Shotwell as its Interim Superintendent beginning on April 1, 2024, at a total monthly salary of \$13,510 and

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2024, amid concerns that the Weldon Board was not cooperating with Dr. Shotwell in approving or implementing Dr. Shotwell’s sound fiscal and personnel recommendations and was otherwise acting outside of its statutory authority, the State Board of Education assumed Dr. Shotwell’s appointment as the Weldon Interim Superintendent by appointing Dr. Shotwell as the State Board’s Interim Superintendent for the Weldon City Schools pursuant to its authority under G.S. 115C-105.39(c)(1); and

WHEREAS the State Board, through NCDPI, authorizes funding to the Weldon City Schools for the salaries and benefits of central office administrators, including the Superintendent, through the Central Office Administration allotment; and

WHEREAS the State Board of Education policy DSTR-041 provides that as follows: “The SBE shall appoint the interim superintendent under a contract of employment and the interim superintendent shall be an employee of the State Department of Public Instruction... The SBE may retain or recover any state funds that DPI has allocated to the district that the district could have used to pay its superintendent’s salary and benefits and use those funds to pay the salary and benefits due under the interim superintendent’s contract”; and

WHEREAS Dr. Shotwell is now the State Board appointed Interim Superintendent in Weldon and the money allotted and budgeted to pay his salary should be directed to DPI for the payment of Dr. Shotwell’s salary; and

WHEREAS, the State Board’s adopted allotment formula regarding Central Office Administration (PRC 002), effective July 1, 2024, allows the State Board of Education to direct NCDPI to reduce the Central Office Administration allotment in the amount of the total salary and benefits for the Interim superintendent from all funding sources, not to exceed the legislated maximum salary for a superintendent V; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I move that the NDDPI be directed to reduce the Weldon City Central Office Administration allotment in the amount of \$13,510 per month plus the associated benefits, equal to the monthly salary and benefits that Dr. Shotwell was receiving under his March 26, 2024, contract with the Weldon City Board of Education, and direct that money toward the payment of Dr. Shotwell’s salary and benefits as the State Board’s appointed Interim Superintendent, with the amount being appropriately prorated for the amount due to Dr. Shotwell for his work in Weldon after July 11 and until July 31 on behalf of the State Board; and

FURTHER, that the deduction of that monthly amount from the Weldon Central Office Administration allotment shall continue until Dr. Shotwell’s appointment by the State Board of Education as Weldon’s Interim Superintendent ends.

Approved by the State Board of Education this first day of August 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

_____ (SEAL)

By: Eric C. Davis

Chairman

Date: _____

Attested To:

_____ (SEAL)

Catherine Truitt

Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction

Date: _____