

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 – 6158

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE PELL CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, on October 26, 1981, by Resolution No. 81-573, the City Council of the City of Pell City (the “City Council”) created the Pell City School System and established the Pell City Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council created the Pell City School System to provide exceptional educational opportunities and outcomes to the residents of Pell City that are better than those provided by the St. Clair County School System; and,

WHEREAS, when the Pell City School System was formed, the vast majority of the students educated by the Pell City School System lived within the city limits of the City of Pell City; and,

WHEREAS, from its creation until 1992, the members of the Pell City Board of Education were appointed by the City Council in accordance with general Alabama law; and,

WHEREAS, in 1992, through a local constitutional amendment and a local act of the Alabama Legislature, the Pell City Board of Education changed to an elected board of education with its members being elected by the qualified electors of the City of Pell City in geographic districts that are identical to the five City Council districts; and,

WHEREAS, since the creation of the Pell City School System, parents residing outside of the city limits of the City of Pell City have been allowed to send their children to the Pell City School System but they have been unable to serve on the Pell City Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, the Pell City Board of Education has worked for many years to find a legal solution that allows those individuals that reside outside the city limits of the City of Pell City and within the unincorporated portion of the Pell City School Attendance Zone and Tax District (the “County portion”) to participate in the governance of the Pell City School System where their students attend school; and,

WHEREAS, the Pell City Board of Education has retained experts to advise the Pell City Board of Education on the feasibility of expanding its current voting districts to include the County portion of the Pell City School Attendance Zone and Tax District; and,

WHEREAS, after significant study and evaluation, the Pell City Board of Education determined that it was not feasible to expand its current voting districts to include the County portion of the Pell City School Attendance Zone and Tax District; and,

WHEREAS, the Pell City Board of Education analyzed and considered every option available to provide those individuals that reside in the County portion of the Pell City School Attendance Zone and Tax District the opportunity to participate in the governance of the Pell City School System; and,

WHEREAS, the Pell City Board of Education determined that it was in the best interests of all citizens residing in the Pell City School Attendance Zone and Tax District to return the Pell City Board of Education to an appointed board, as it existed when the Pell City School System was formed, and to legally establish that the appointed members of the Pell City Board of Education shall be qualified individuals who reside within the entire Pell City School Attendance Zone and Tax District, with at least two of those members being appointed from the County portion of the Pell City School Attendance Zone and Tax District; and,

WHEREAS, the Pell City Board of Education unanimously supported and reviewed draft legislation to be considered in the 2024 Alabama Legislative Session that proposed a Local Constitutional Amendment to address the governance issues between the Pell City School System and the St. Clair County School System and to modify existing Alabama law to allow individuals who reside in the County portion of the Pell City School Attendance Zone and Tax District to serve on the Pell City Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, the Pell City Board of Education voted unanimously to support Act 2024-111, which authorizes a local constitutional amendment to remedy the governance issues that have affected the Pell City Board of Education and the St. Clair County Board of Education since the formation of the Pell City School System.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Pell City supports the unanimous decision of the Pell City Board of Education and also voted unanimously to support Act 2024-111; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Pell City has determined that it is wise, prudent, and in the best interests of the citizens of the Pell City School Attendance Zone and Tax District to create the Pell City Board of Education Steering Committee and to establish the procedures by which future members of the Pell City Board of Education shall be appointed by the City Council if the voters approve the local constitutional amendment proposed by Act 2024-111.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PELL CITY, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Pell City hereby creates the Pell City Board of Education Steering Committee.

Section 2. The Pell City Board of Education Steering Committee shall consist of seven (7) members who reside within Pell City School Attendance Zone and Tax District.

Section 3. The members for the Pell City Board of Education Steering Committee shall be individual adults in good standing in the community who demonstrate the desire and commitment of ensuring that the Pell City School System delivers exceptional educational opportunities and outcomes to its students. The members for the Pell City Board of Education Steering Committee shall be appointed by the City Council and shall serve for a term of two (2) years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment by the City Council.

Section 4. The Pell City Board of Education Steering Committee shall review, evaluate, and recommend qualified members of the public to serve on the Pell City Board of Education. In addition to the legal qualifications established by Alabama law, all candidates for the Pell City Board of Education recommended by the Pell City Board of Education Steering Committee shall demonstrate the desire and commitment of ensuring that the Pell City School System delivers exceptional educational opportunities and outcomes to its students.

Section 5. The members of the Pell City Board of Education shall be appointed by the City Council in accordance with general Alabama law.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall become effective upon the ratification of the amendment to the Constitutional of Alabama of 2022 proposed by Act 2024-111.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this the 14th day of October, 2024.



W. Judge Alverson, Council President

ATTEST:




Sheree D. Pruitt - City Clerk

APPROVED this the 14th day of October, 2024.



William T. Pruitt, IV, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sheree D. Pruitt - City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Sheree D. Pruitt, Clerk of the City of Pell City, hereby certify that the above Ordinance was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Pell City at a regular meeting held on the 14th day of October 2024, and that the same has been published by posting in accordance with §11-45-8, Ala. Code 1975, by posting a copy of the Ordinance in three public places within the municipality, one of which was the Mayor's office in the City, on this the ^{17th} 15th day of October 2024. I further certify and confirm that the City shall take reasonable steps to maintain the posting for not less than 30 days. In addition, the City shall include a copy of this Ordinance on its website for 30 days.



City Clerk