

Hamilton County Department of Education
Hamilton County Board of Education Board Meeting - Special Called Session
September 1, 2026 10:45 AM
1 Carter Plaza
Room 20
Chattanooga , TN 37402

I. Roll Call

II. Delegations

III. Ben Connor - District 6

Resolution No. 02-26

IV. Adjourn

To: Hamilton County Board of Education
Dr. Justin Robertson, Superintendent

From: Ben Conner, District 6

Date: September 1, 2026

Subject: Resolution 02-26

Board Agenda Category:

- ☐ Consent Agenda
- ☒ Action Item
- ☐ Reports and Information

The adoption of resolution 02-26 will honor Dolly Parton and her contributions to childhood literacy in Hamilton County and Tennessee.

Dolly Parton, a native daughter of Tennessee, has devoted herself not only to a distinguished career in music, entertainment, and business, but also to improving the lives of children and families through education, generosity, and service. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly Parton established the Imagination Library through The Dollywood Foundation in 1995 to foster a love of reading among young children in her home county of Sevier County, Tennessee;

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides registered children from birth to age five with a high-quality, age-appropriate book each month at no cost to their families, helping children build home libraries of their own and encouraging parents and caregivers to read with them. The Imagination Library expanded statewide in Tennessee in 2004, making Tennessee the first state to offer the program to children in every county and creating a model that has since inspired communities throughout the United States and around the world; and

The students, families, educators, and communities of Hamilton County, Tennessee, and across the globe, have benefited from the culture of literacy and learning advanced by Dolly Parton and the Imagination Library. The Hamilton County Board of Education recognizes and honors Dolly Parton for her extraordinary contributions to childhood literacy and for her unwavering commitment to ensuring that the children of Tennessee

Opportunity 2030 Commitment Connection

- ☒ Every Student Learns
- ☒ Every Student Belongs
- ☐ Every School Equipped
- ☐ Every Employee Valued
- ☒ Every Community Served

**HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

RESOLUTION NO. 02-26

**A RESOLUTION HONORING DOLLY PARTON FOR HER
EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHILDREN'S LITERACY IN
TENNESSEE**

Introduced by Ben Connor, Hamilton County School Board Member, District 6

WHEREAS, literacy is the foundation of academic achievement, lifelong learning, economic opportunity, and full participation in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Dolly Parton, a native daughter of Tennessee, has devoted herself not only to a distinguished career in music, entertainment, and business, but also to improving the lives of children and families through education, generosity, and service; and

WHEREAS, inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly Parton established the Imagination Library through The Dollywood Foundation in 1995 to foster a love of reading among young children in her home county of Sevier County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides registered children from birth to age five with a high-quality, age-appropriate book each month at no cost to their families, helping children build home libraries of their own and encouraging parents and caregivers to read with them; and

WHEREAS, the Imagination Library expanded statewide in Tennessee in 2004, making Tennessee the first state to offer the program to children in every county and creating a model that has since inspired communities throughout the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, through this first of its kind program, generations of Tennessee children have experienced the joy of receiving a book addressed especially to them, strengthening early literacy skills, encouraging imagination and curiosity, and helping prepare them for success in school and throughout life; and

WHEREAS, Dolly Parton's vision recognizes that a child's opportunity to develop a love of reading should not depend upon family income, geography, or circumstance, and that placing books directly into children's homes is a meaningful investment in their futures; and

WHEREAS, the students, families, educators, and communities of Hamilton County, Tennessee, and across the globe, have benefited from the culture of literacy and learning advanced by Dolly Parton and the Imagination Library; and

WHEREAS, Dolly Parton’s enduring commitment to Tennessee’s children demonstrates the profound difference that one person’s compassion, vision, and determination can make in the lives of millions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Education hereby recognizes and honors **Dolly Parton** for her extraordinary contributions to childhood literacy and for her unwavering commitment to ensuring that the children of Tennessee have access to books from the earliest years of their lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Education expresses its sincere gratitude to Dolly Parton for inspiring children to dream more, learn more, care more, and be more through the lifelong gift of reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Education encourages the families and communities of Hamilton County to continue supporting early literacy, reading with children, and expanding access to books for every student; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an official copy of this resolution will be presented to the Hamilton County State and Federal Delegations for recognition of Dolly Parton in our state and federal governments; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that an official copy of this resolution will be presented to the Dollywood Foundation as an expression of the admiration, appreciation, and gratitude of the Hamilton County Board of Education and the students and families it serves.

Adopted by the Hamilton County Board of Education this 1st day of September, 2026.

Ben Connor Sponsor, District 6

Steve Slater, District 1

Ben Daugherty, District 2

Ashley Dillon, District 3

Jackie Thomas, District 4

Thessela White, District 5

Jodi Schaffer, District 7

Katie Perkins, District 8

Gary Kuehn, District 9

Felice Hadden, District 10

