



AGENDA ACTION FORM

Consideration of a Resolution to Approve Inclusion of the Kingsport City Schools in the Social Media Accountability Litigation and Authorizes the Director of Schools to Execute an Agreement with the Frantz Law Group to Represent the Kingsport City Schools

To: Board of Mayor and Aldermen
From: Chris McCartt, City Manager *CM*

Action Form No.: AF-320-2024
Work Session: November 18, 2024
First Reading: N/A
Final Adoption: November 19, 2024
Staff Work By: Bart Rowlett
Presentation By: Bart Rowlett

Recommendation:
Approve the Resolution.

Executive Summary:
In recent years litigation has been initiated in both state and federal courts against multiple social media platforms including Meta Platforms, Inc. (f/k/a Facebook), Snap, Inc., TikTok, Inc., and Google, LLLC the managing member of YouTube, LLC as a result of harms to children from use of these platforms. These causes of action have been brought by multiple individuals, school districts, local governments, and state attorneys general across the country. In fact, more than 30 school districts across Tennessee and even Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti are pursuing such cases. Many cases have been consolidated into multi district litigation in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

The harms associated with these platforms include compulsive use by children and other psychological adverse effects such as anxiety, depression, and behavioral problems. Furthermore, these platforms gather user’s data which is then utilized to target content to users to promote continued use and promote advertising for the purpose of generating revenue.

As a result, schools across the country, including Kingsport City Schools, have been forced to devote additional time and resources to address distractions in the classroom in order to keep students focused on curriculum, provide additional counseling services to address with psychological and/or behavioral concerns exhibited by students.

At its October 15, 2024 meeting the City of Kingsport Board of Education voted to join the social media accountability litigation.

The accompanying resolution approves of the inclusion of Kingsport City Schools in the Social Media Accountability Litigation and authorizes the Director of Schools to Execute an Agreement with the Frantz Law Group to Represent the Kingsport City Schools.

Attachments:
1. Resolution

	Y	N	O
Baker	—	—	—
Cooper	—	—	—
Duncan	—	—	—
George	—	—	—
Phillips	—	—	—
Mayes	—	—	—
Montgomery	—	—	—