



RESOLUTION

A resolution of the St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce expressing support for statewide reform of Louisiana School Boards, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, education and an educated workforce are essential elements for attracting businesses to our community and sustaining them; and

WHEREAS, historically the St. Tammany Parish school system has been viewed as successful and an asset in recruiting workers and businesses to our community; and

WHEREAS, it has been acknowledged that the education system of Louisiana has not, as a whole, enjoyed the same reputation as the St. Tammany Parish School System; and

WHEREAS, it has been suggested that statewide reform of the School Board system is required to help implement prior reforms to the educational system as a whole;

NOW THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce, as follows:

Section 1. The St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) supports the underlying principle that the best role for local school boards is to set overall education policy for their districts and not involve themselves in the detail of day to day operations.

Section 2. To this end, the Chamber supports the following proposed changes to the Louisiana School Board system:

- a. The day to day operations of the School District should be solely the responsibility of a Superintendant hired by the School Board.
- b. The Superintendant should be solely responsible for hiring and firing all other employees of the School District, with the exception of the Chief Financial Officer, who should be hired by and report directly to the School Board.
- c. The Chief Financial Officer, together with a committee composed of three School Board members, shall prepare an annual operating and capital budget, for presentation to, and approval by the School Board.
- d. The Chief Financial Officer and committee shall develop and maintain a rolling 5-year projection of income and expenses.

- e. The Superintendent may not be terminated without adequate notice, a public hearing , and a two-thirds vote of the School Board members present and voting at the meeting called specifically for the purpose of considering and taking action on the termination of the Superintendent.
- f. The terms of School Board members should be limited to no more than three. The three terms need not be consecutive.
- g. State nepotism laws should be strengthened, and more importantly, enforced.
- h. There should be no compensation paid to School Board members, but they should be fairly reimbursed for expenses they incur in the formal and informal exercise of their duties. Care should be taken to avoid capping reimbursements to the point of excluding qualified individuals who otherwise could not afford to serve.
- i. School Board members should not be furnished health insurance at the expense of the School District. A School Board member should be able to participate in a School District sponsored health insurance plan, provided that the agreement with the insurer permits it and the School Board member pays the full amount of the premium for him/her and his/her family.
- j. State law should include significant penalties for violating these and other best practices laws, and more importantly, they should be consistently enforced.

The foregoing resolution was offered and carried on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 by a quorum of the Board of Directors.



Lacey Toledano
President & CEO



Jean Champagne
2009 Chairman of the Board

Adopted April 29, 2009