

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-4053

COUNCIL SPONSOR: MS. O'BRIEN

PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL OFFICE

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD'S RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOHN WHITE AND MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (BESE) REMOVE THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND THE OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN LOUISIANA FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS) AND PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS (PARCC) TESTING.

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish School Board sent a Resolution (see attached) requesting Governor Bobby Jindal, State Superintendent of Education John White and members of BESE remove the St. Tammany Parish Public School System and the other School Districts in Louisiana from the implementation of CCSS and PARCC testing; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Council supports the School Board in its efforts to meet the needs of every child, every day in St. Tammany Parish.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES that it supports the St. Tammany Parish School Board's request that Governor Bobby Jindal, State Superintendent of Education John White and members of BESE remove the St. Tammany Parish Public School System and the other School Districts in Louisiana from the implementation of CCSS and PARCC testing.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVES that it supports the School Board's request that if Governor Bobby Jindal, State Superintendent of Education John White and members of BESE do not take this action, the St. Tammany Parish School Board does hereby respectfully request members of the Louisiana Legislature use their authority to remove the St. Tammany Parish Public School System and the other School Districts in Louisiana from the implementation of CCSS and PARCC testing.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 1 DAY OF MAY, 2014, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

R. REID FALCONER, AIA, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

THERESA L. FORD, COUNCIL CLERK

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Public School System provides a caring environment for learning, a challenging and relevant curriculum, innovative instruction and solid student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the St. Tammany Parish School Board opposed the Common Core State Standards since the idea was first introduced to the State of Louisiana through the rejection of a Race to the Top agreement in January of 2010; and

WHEREAS, constant commitment to improvement and high performance has made the St. Tammany Parish Public School System a leader in the State of Louisiana, by all major standards of educational excellence; and

WHEREAS, the members of the St. Tammany Parish School Board, duly elected by the citizens of the parish, believe that education is not the mandate of the Federal Government or any national board; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish School Board believes that the Common Core State Standards were implemented too quickly, are not perfect standards, and may not reflect the norms of our community in all cases; and

WHEREAS, significant time, effort and expense is associated with the modification of St. Tammany's Guaranteed Curriculum to comply with the Common Core requirements and its implementation; and

WHEREAS, major investments to equipment and upgrades to our infrastructure are required to comply with the requirements of PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers); and

WHEREAS, the cost of the actual assessments is significantly more expensive than the current assessment especially since it will cover all grade levels and this will be an ongoing expense that imposes an undue burden to our School System; and this is another unfunded mandate on the St. Tammany Parish Public School System; and

WHEREAS, we do not currently believe that the St. Tammany Parish Public School System has objectionable material in any of our existing and proposed curriculum; however, we do furthermore encourage all parents, teachers, and administrators to elevate concerns of material in the curriculum to the Principals, Superintendent, and School Board Members; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish School Board objects to the collection and sharing of massive amounts of students' data required to be shared through the PARCC or any other agreement which violates student privacy; and

WHEREAS, our belief is that Common Core State Standards do not justify the disruption to instruction, accountability, professional development and teacher preparation that follows adoption of these standards and PARCC assessments in our system; and we further believe that the Guaranteed Curriculum, state approved, adopted and implemented in the St. Tammany Parish Public School System meets the needs of every child, every day in St. Tammany Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Tammany Parish School Board does hereby request that Governor Bobby Jindal, State Superintendent of Education John White and members of BESE remove the St. Tammany Parish Public School System and the other School Districts in Louisiana from the implementation of CCSS and PARCC testing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that if Governor Bobby Jindal, State Superintendent of Education John White and members of BESE do not take this action, the St. Tammany Parish School Board does hereby respectfully request members of the Louisiana Legislature use their authority to remove the St. Tammany Parish Public School System and the other School Districts in Louisiana from the implementation of CCSS and PARCC testing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of this Board, with copies being sent to Governor Bobby Jindal, State Superintendent of Education John White, members of BESE, all members of the Louisiana Legislature and all schools in the St. Tammany Parish Public School System.

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I, W. L. "Trey" Folse, III, Secretary of the St. Tammany Parish School Board, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at the regular session of the St. Tammany Parish School Board on October 10, 2013 held at its regular meeting place, the Parish School Board Office, Covington, Louisiana.

W. L. "Trey" Folse, III
Secretary