

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY REPRESENTATIVE MAGEE

SCHOOLS: Urges and requests the Terrebonne Parish School Board not to close Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary School

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Terrebonne Parish School Board not to close Pointe-Aux-Chenes
3 Elementary School but to take all necessary measures to support and strengthen the
4 school; to provide that the House of Representatives will consider withholding
5 COVID-19 relief funding from the school board if it continues to close schools
6 unnecessarily; to commend the administration, faculty, staff, students, families, and
7 community supporters for their dedication to the preservation of the school and its
8 traditions; and to recognize and record for posterity the singular place this beloved
9 school holds in the community and in the history of Terrebonne Parish.

10 WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish School Board is considering the closure of
11 Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary School; and

12 WHEREAS, this school, which serves students in prekindergarten through fourth
13 grade, many of whom are of Native American heritage, is inextricably woven into the fabric
14 of the Pointe-Aux-Chenes community; and

15 WHEREAS, the mission statement of this school is "success begins when teachers,
16 parents, and community members work together to ensure student achievement and promote
17 positively awesome citizens"; and

18 WHEREAS, Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary School is small but vibrant; there is a
19 long history of community involvement that still thrives; parents and community members
20 partner with the school as vital stakeholders, preparing students for their future as stewards
21 of this unique bayou community; and

1 WHEREAS, the school's teachers and parents, Native American Tribal leaders, and
2 local business owners all play a part in enriching the lives of the students; they provide
3 activities and presentations that not only prepare students for future careers but also develop
4 a knowledge and sense of belonging to the rich culture into which they were born; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2015, Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary School received one of the top
6 honors in the nation when it was named a 2015 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the
7 United States Department of Education in recognition of its substantial progress in closing
8 the achievement gap among students; it was one of only six schools in the state to earn this
9 prestigious honor that year; and

10 WHEREAS, the "Gulf Guardian Award" was awarded to the school in recognition
11 of the students' involvement in environmental issues, which is crucial in this part of the state
12 and develops their leadership in the fight to preserve their heritage and home; and

13 WHEREAS, the proposal to shutter Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary School, if
14 approved, would not only disrupt the education of its students but would decimate a
15 longstanding community and school traditions in this extremely tight-knit community; and

16 WHEREAS, requiring the students of Pointe-Aux-Chenes to travel to Montegut
17 Elementary School, as is being proposed, could place them in harm's way, as travel between
18 the two locations, despite the relatively short distance, can be treacherous; and

19 WHEREAS, parents, many of whom are alumni of the school, report feeling
20 blindsided by this proposal; and

21 WHEREAS, closing this school would have a disproportionately negative impact on
22 a school that has one of the largest Native American and French-speaking populations in all
23 of Louisiana; and

24 WHEREAS, there is both a strong need and passionate community support for
25 keeping Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary School open in order to meet the needs of its
26 students; and

27 WHEREAS, Louisiana and Terrebonne Parish will be receiving substantial funding
28 for education, especially for underserved and vulnerable populations; Pointe-Aux-Chenes
29 Elementary School, a Title I school where approximately 75% of the students are

1 economically disadvantaged, serves the very populations targeted by the federal American
2 Rescue Plan; and

3 WHEREAS, this proposal to close Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary could place the
4 Terrebonne Parish School Board in jeopardy of losing federal funds; and

5 WHEREAS, the Pointe-Aux-Chenes community is unified in raising its voice to
6 protest this proposal and the Louisiana House of Representatives joins its protest.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
8 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Terrebonne Parish School Board
9 not to close Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary School but to take all necessary measures to
10 support and strengthen this beloved school so that its legacy of excellence in education can
11 continue for future generations.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives will consider
13 withholding COVID-19 relief funding from the Terrebonne Parish School Board if it
14 continues to unnecessarily close schools against the will of its constituents and to the
15 detriment of the community.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby
17 commend the administration, faculty, staff, students, families, and community supporters of
18 Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary School for their unwavering dedication to the preservation
19 of the school and all of its traditions.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby
21 recognize and record for posterity the singular and special place this school holds in the
22 community and in the history of Terrebonne Parish and the tremendous pride and honor it
23 brings to its community and to the state of Louisiana.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 president of the Terrebonne Parish School Board, the superintendent of the Terrebonne
26 Parish School District, and the principal of Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary School.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 13 Original

2021 Regular Session

Magee

Requests the Terrebonne Parish School Board not to close Pointe-Aux-Chenes Elementary School but to support and strengthen the school. Provides that the House of Representatives will consider withholding COVID-19 relief funding from the school board if it continues to close schools unnecessarily. Commends the administration, faculty, staff, students, families, and community supporters for their dedication to the preservation of the school and its traditions. Recognizes and records for posterity the singular place the school holds in the community and in the history of Terrebonne Parish.