

2022 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY SENATOR PETERSON

COMMENDATIONS. To commend Dr. Henderson Lewis Jr. on more than 25 years spent in public education as a teacher, administrator, and superintendent.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Dr. Henderson Lewis Jr. on more than twenty-five years spent in public
3 education as a teacher, administrator, and superintendent.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis is a native of Violet, Louisiana; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis' grandfather told him at an early age that school was his job
6 and he has taken that job seriously ever since; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis began teaching at eight years old; his students were his
8 cousins, his curriculum was the worksheets his aunt brought home, and his chalkboard was
9 the wall; and

10 WHEREAS, while attending St. Bernard High School, he tutored students during the
11 summer and later graduated as salutatorian; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis earned a bachelor's degree in secondary mathematics
13 education from Southern University at New Orleans, a MEd in educational leadership and
14 administration from the University of New Orleans, and a PhD in educational leadership and
15 administration from Mississippi State University, all before the age of thirty; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1999, Dr. Lewis began his career as a professional educator as a
17 teacher and for the next seven years he worked in the St. Bernard Parish Public Schools; in
18 addition he served for eleven years he on the St. Bernard Parish Public School Board; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2006, Dr. Lewis left the St. Bernard school system to serve in a
2 variety of roles for the Algiers Charter Schools Association, the first charter management
3 organization to open after Hurricane Katrina; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis served as their director of academics and instructional
5 technology, the assistant principal for Alice Harte Elementary Charter School, and as a
6 founding principal of Algiers Technology Academy charter school; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2012, Dr. Lewis was appointed superintendent for East Feliciana
8 Parish school system; and

9 WHEREAS, during his tenure with East Feliciana Parish school system and as a
10 result of his four-year strategic plan and leadership, he raised the bar for classroom teaching
11 and evaluation, and made significant gains among low-income students; and

12 WHEREAS, as a result, East Feliciana Public Schools were recognized by the
13 Louisiana Department of Education as second in the state for elementary student academic
14 growth; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2015, at age forty, Dr. Lewis began his tenure as one of New Orleans
16 schools' youngest superintendents in its nearly one hundred and ninety year history; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis has been at the helm of New Orleans Public Schools for over
18 six years, leading the historic 2018 unification of public schools in New Orleans under local
19 control, the establishment of the district as a supporter of the local school community while
20 holding each operator to high education standards, and celebrating through it all, the
21 achievement of its teachers, support staff, and students; and

22 WHEREAS, under Lewis' leadership, the district's awards to disadvantaged business
23 enterprises increased, its minimum wage for food service employees rose to fifteen dollars
24 per hour, and its graduation rates increased; and

25 WHEREAS, also under Lewis' leadership, in 2019 the school district was able to
26 procure a commitment of five million dollars for technology at the start of the pandemic,
27 helping schools deliver thousands of laptops and hot spots to New Orleans families; and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis brought all his experiences to bear building partnership, using
29 data to drive decisions, and overseeing New Orleans Public Schools during unprecedented
30 times; and

