

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 149

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESLEY BISHOP

SCHOOLS/BOARDS: Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education reconsider its decision to close Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School and that the Orleans Parish School Board and Recovery School District study working collaboratively to provide education services to this school's students

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to reconsider  
3 its decision to close Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School in New Orleans and to  
4 urge and request the Orleans Parish School Board and the Recovery School District  
5 to study jointly the feasibility of working collaboratively to continue to provide  
6 education services to the students of this school in the Desire community.

7 WHEREAS, founded in 2009, Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School is a college  
8 preparatory, open-enrollment charter school located on Higgins Boulevard in the Desire  
9 community of New Orleans; and

10 WHEREAS, the school's mission is to prepare every student for success in high  
11 school, college, and beyond; and

12 WHEREAS, the school subscribes to six essential core values: hard work, excellence,  
13 respect, discipline, determination, and leadership; and

14 WHEREAS, in November of 2012, the state Department of Education and the  
15 Recovery School District recommended that the school's charter contract not be extended  
16 beyond the 2012-2013 school year, and in December of 2012, the State Board of Elementary  
17 and Secondary Education approved this recommendation; and

18 WHEREAS, though it has only been open a few years, this unique school has  
19 evolved into a true neighborhood institution that is deeply beloved by its students, faculty,  
20 and staff and by the Desire community as a whole; and

1           WHEREAS, the closure of this school will disperse hundreds of students and disrupt  
2 their educations; and

3           WHEREAS, there is both a strong need and strong community support for keeping  
4 Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School open in order to meet the needs of its students, their  
5 parents, and the Desire community; and

6           WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary that the State Board of Elementary and  
7 Secondary Education revisit its decision to close Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School and  
8 that the Orleans Parish School Board and the Recovery School District collaborate in the  
9 effort to provide education services to this school's students.

10          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
11 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and  
12 Secondary Education to reconsider its decision to close Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory  
13 School in New Orleans.

14          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana House of Representatives does  
15 hereby urge and request the Orleans Parish School Board and the Recovery School District  
16 to study jointly the feasibility of working collaboratively to continue to provide education  
17 services to the students of this school in the Desire community and to submit jointly a  
18 written report of findings and conclusions to the House Committee on Education not later  
19 than July 15, 2013.

20          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
21 to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, to the  
22 superintendent of the Recovery School District, to the state superintendent of education, and  
23 to the president of the Orleans Parish School Board.

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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)]

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Wesley Bishop

HR No. 149

Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education reconsider its decision to close Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School in New Orleans. Further requests that the Orleans Parish School Board and the Recovery School District study jointly the feasibility of working collaboratively to continue to provide education services to the students of this

school in the Desire community and submit jointly a written report of findings and conclusions to the House Committee on Education not later than July 15, 2013.