

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 149

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESLEY BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES