

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY SENATOR PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVE CARMODY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the administration, faculty, students, and alumni of University Elementary School on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, located in the southeastern section of Shreveport, University Elementary School (UES) opened its doors in the fall semester of 1967 when community leaders addressed the ever-increasing educational needs of the region, which experienced exponential growth during the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, governed by the Caddo Parish School Board, University Elementary facilitates the academic requirements of a diverse population of over one thousand students from prekindergarten through fifth grade; and

WHEREAS, University Elementary is an exceptional institution whose primary focus is the preparation of its student body for continuous lifelong learning; it is a top-rated school that promotes a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) curricula named "Project Lead the Way", and retains a cache of extraordinary teachers and counseling staff; and

WHEREAS, University Elementary has been honored with copious awards in the field of education for outstanding teaching and scholastic achievement; and

WHEREAS, some of these recognitions include Path to Excellence, School of Academic Achievement, technology education grants, corporate grants from BellSouth, Target, SWEPCO, Best Buy, Shreveport Green Clean Campus Award, State/District PTA Outstanding Unit, Caddo Principal of the Year, Regional VII-Principal of the Year, Caddo Student of the Year, Outstanding Website from District and State PTA, State PTA Grandparent of the Year, State PTA Teachers of Distinction, and Walmart Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, six principals have guided the school since its beginning; the first principal was Frank Tyler, followed by Lillian Mothershed, James Sanders, Charlotte

Watson, Paula Nelson, and the current principal, Kasie Mainiero; and

WHEREAS, with improved scholastic outcomes as its synergy, Principal Mainiero, the faculty, and staff incorporate the most up-to-date teaching methods and after-school programs to address the academic needs of all students, including gifted and talented and those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, teacher continuing education is an important segment in instructional innovation; University Elementary is a pilot study school for "Discovery Education", a subsidiary of The Discovery Channel, which provides teacher training, classroom enrichment resources, and interactive lesson planning; teachers also train in a workshop setting at the Ron Clark Academy to create a more positive classroom environment in which students are eager to learn; and

WHEREAS, for academic development and social involvement University Elementary offers a myriad of extracurricular activities such as football, cheerleading, soccer club, running club, history club, 4-H, archery, Bricks4Kidz (architecture), acting, singing, musical theater, art club, computer club, robotics, programming/coding club, and Green Club (environment); and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2017, University Elementary set a new Guinness World Record during the solar eclipse when students, faculty, parents, and community leaders participated in the largest astronomy lesson ever recorded; the class was taught by University Elementary science teacher, Charles Moser; and

WHEREAS, the University Elementary administration maintains a website to facilitate lines of communication between teachers, parents, and the local community, and also supports a public Facebook page; and

WHEREAS, at University Elementary, the use of social media applications provides a nearly constant dialogue between teachers and parents and addresses student achievement, curriculum choice, study infrastructure, and testing analysis, as well as the connectivity of positive parental involvement in the social and academic ecology of this outstanding school; and

WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 school year calendar is dotted with numerous activities to celebrate this golden anniversary; the kickoff event occurred on September 26th with a

50th anniversary potluck party; on February 24, 2018, the Celebration of Education: 50 Years 5K Fun Run celebrates the mutual golden anniversaries of University Elementary, Captain Shreve High School, and Louisiana State University Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, the school will also commemorate its fiftieth anniversary with the creation of a university memorial courtyard paved with bricks engraved with the names of students, staff, teachers, principals, and alumni, both past and present; "Bricks For US", in conjunction with other activities, will spotlight this prestigious occasion in Caddo Parish history; and

WHEREAS, within the courtyard, a time capsule shall be buried with the intent that it be opened, perhaps in another five decades, on the centennial anniversary of University Elementary School by a future student body; its contents will include timely items such as a yearbook, student drawings, popular toys, photos, and other items that reflect the trends of the present and that hold a special connection to the citizenry of the Shreveport-Bossier region; and

WHEREAS, University Elementary strengthens the bonds of family and school with the support of the PTA and committees of volunteers who coordinate various activities within the school year that include social events and fundraising activities; and

WHEREAS, these many effective interactions contribute to the overall positive achievement of the individual student, accelerate academic improvement within University Elementary School as a whole, and, in the long term, encourage strong connections within the Shreveport community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the administration, faculty, students, and alumni of University Elementary School of Shreveport on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kasie Mainiero, principal of University Elementary School of Shreveport.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES