

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY SENATOR GATTI AND REPRESENTATIVE HORTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Providence Classical Academy on the dedication of the Dr. Fred Lowery Library.

WHEREAS, Providence Classical Academy is composed of students from different churches, with over ten local churches and several denominations represented by its student body and is intentionally historically grounded in orthodox Christianity; and

WHEREAS, Providence Classical Academy seeks to pursue the glory of God and the good of His people by providing a classical and Christian education founded upon a biblical worldview, which equips students to know, love, and practice the truth and challenges them to strive for excellence as they live purposefully in service to God and man; and

WHEREAS, the academy envisions training students to be lifelong learners, who will fully engage both heart and mind to know and serve God, and to have a relationship with Him through Christ that is exhibited in every area of life and culture; and

WHEREAS, in February 2005, Howard and Melissa Davis advertised and held two informational meetings about Christian classical education, and in May 2005, Howard Davis organized a board that shared the common vision of a Christian classical school in the Shreveport-Bossier area; and

WHEREAS, the founding board members were Howard Davis, Melissa Davis, Mark Jonker, Stephanie Jonker, Michael Raggio, Charles Roberts, Lacey Wallace, Vikki Wallace, and Serena White; and

WHEREAS, the wives of the board members agreed to join together volunteering their time and talent to start the first school year in August 2005; and

WHEREAS, from August 2005 to May 2006, the school met at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport with twenty students in kindergarten through third grade; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2006, additional informational meetings were held and other families began to understand the vision of a Christian classical school; and

WHEREAS, enrollment for the 2006-2007 school year increased to twenty-three

students and Providence Classical Academy began meeting at First Baptist Bossier; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2007, Providence Classical Academy began its first year as a full-time private school, meeting five days a week from eight o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon; and

WHEREAS, the 2007-2008 school year began with forty-six students in kindergarten through seventh grade; the 2008-2009 school year began with seventy-two students in kindergarten through eighth grade; and the 2009-2010 school year proved to be a historical year in terms of growth as enrollment grew to over one hundred students in kindergarten through eighth grade; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Providence Classical Academy has grown to five hundred seventy students in K4 through twelfth grade; and

WHEREAS, an incredible group of sixty-two teachers is employed by Providence Classical Academy and their enthusiasm for learning is contagious to the students, resulting in an average score of twenty-eight on the ACT; and

WHEREAS, the headmaster at Providence Classical Academy, Howard Davis, deserves a special measure of commendation for his tireless dedication to academic excellence and to the role of Christ in the lives of students and faculty; and

WHEREAS, Providence Classical Academy transformed from providing instruction from First Baptist Church to an expansive campus including a new library; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2017, a ribbon cutting and dedication took place at Providence Classical Academy to commemorate its new library, the Dr. Fred Lowery Library, and to honor the man who bears its name; and

WHEREAS, God led Dr. Lowery to First Baptist Church in Bossier in 1983, and he effectively responded to his calling by providing unwavering, dedicated spiritual leadership to its membership of more than seven thousand Christians; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lowery has baptized and married thousands of people, imparted the Word of God in more than five hundred churches, Bible conferences, revivals, and marriage conferences, and served in presidential office in the Louisiana State Convention, Southern Baptist Convention's Pastor's Conference, and as vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his commanding and persuasive speaking talents, God has also gifted Dr. Lowery in writing and he is the author of "Making the Bible Clear", "Starting Here–Starting Now", "Home Improvement 101", "Covenant Marriage: Staying Together for Life", and "Jogging Through the Bible"; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Dr. Lowery retired as senior pastor of First Baptist Church after thirty years with more than fifty years as a minister; and

WHEREAS, through his guidance and leadership, the students, parents, teachers, families, friends, and community churches will grow in a deeper understanding of God, His character, and His purposes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Providence Classical Academy on the dedication of the Dr. Fred Lowery Library in honor of a man who devoted more than fifty years to Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the headmaster of Providence Classical Academy.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES