**MODEL RESOLUTION**

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT FOR EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, for the first time in almost decade, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will be electing a new State Superintendent of Education (BESE);

WHEREAS, the election of a State Superintendent is one of the three primary functions of BESE;

WHEREAS, making the best choice of a new State Superintendent is critically important to the approximately 700,000 public school children in Louisiana;

WHEREAS, LRS 17:21 provides that the State Superintendent, at a minimum, should possess the qualifications established by BESE for a local school superintendent;

WHEREAS, LAC 28:I.309 provides that the State Superintendent shall possess the following qualifications:

* Advanced degree in public administration, education or related area;
* Background in the formulation and implementation of public policy;
* Strong academic background; and
* Qualifications for the position of superintendent of a city, parish, or other local public school board;

And provides that a candidate should have the following experience:

* Proven record of success in administration;
* Demonstrated ability to achieve positive results
* Credibility in his/her current profession; and
* Proven record of team building.

WHEREAS, LAC 28:747 provides that the qualifications for a superintendent of a city, parish or other school superintendent:

* Valid Type A or Level 3 Louisiana teaching certificate
* 5 years of experience as a superintendent, asst. superintendent, supervisor of instruction, principal, or assistant principal, or equivalent experience.
* Master’s degree
* 48 hours of graduate credit, including at least 30 hours in education administration and supervision of instruction, along with specific requirements in various educational administration content areas.

WHEREAS, while BESE has the authority, by a two-thirds vote, to waive the requirements to be the State Superintendent of Education, those adopted qualifications are vitally important to ensuring that the leader of public education in Louisiana has the appropriate educational background and experience, and a waiver should only be considered in extraordinary circumstances, such as when there are no viable qualified applicants;

WHEREAS, BESE has established a process for vetting all applicants for State Superintendent;

WHEREAS, the first step in the process should be to separate the applicants into two categories, those that meet the established qualifications and those that do not;

WHERAS, the next step in the process should be to review more closely the applicants that meet the established qualifications;

WHEREAS, the second step in the process should focus on those qualified candidates that have displayed the most student success in their prior experience in public school administration, with a focus on success that spans across diverse communities, rural, urban and suburban, and communities with diverse student populations that most closely mirror the student populations across Louisiana, and evidence of an understanding of the challenges of educating students in the varied public school districts across Louisiana;

WHEREAS, only upon a determination by BESE, acting in an open meeting, that none of the candidates that meet the qualifications are suitable to serve as the State Superintendent of Education, should BESE consider waiving the established minimum qualifications and further evaluating the non-qualified candidates.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [INSERT School Board], urges BESE, in the process of selecting the next State Superintendent of Education, to uphold the establish minimum qualifications adopted by BESE and existing in current Louisiana law and regulation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [INSERT School Board] urges BESE to refuse to waive the minimum qualifications set forth in existing Louisiana law and regulation without a public determination, as a body, that none of the candidates meeting those qualifications is a suitable candidate for State Superintendent of Education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [INSERT School Board] urges BESE to select a new State Superintendent who:

* Meets the established minimum qualifications set forth in Louisiana law and regulation;
* Has displayed student success in public school administration in Louisiana;
* Has displayed student success in public school administration in both rural and suburban/urban communities;
* Has displayed student success in communities with diverse student populations;
* Has an understanding of the challenges of educating students in the varied public school districts across Louisiana;

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [INSERT School Board] directs the Superintendent to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to each BESE member whose district incorporates a portion of the [INSERT School District].