

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) Representative James (Jim) Garvey, who serves District 1, including all of St Tammany Parish, in a public meeting of the same board on March 29, 2017 stated that he and the other members of BESE have been “lying to parents” about the public school accountability system that BESE mandated all Louisiana public school districts use; and

WHEREAS, this accountability system that was publicly deemed a “lie” by BESE member Mr. Garvey was developed by State Superintendent of Education John White, who was appointed by Jim Garvey and other BESE members; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garvey voted for and has actively promoted this accountability system as late as 2016 when he touted its successes in his bid to be re-elected to BESE; and

WHEREAS, if the current accountability system developed by Superintendent White is termed a “lie” as publicly stated by BESE representative Mr. Garvey, then the St. Tammany Parish School Board can only conclude the new Louisiana plan for the Every Student Succeeds ACT (ESSA), also developed by Superintendent White and his staff and rushed for approval by BESE members including Mr. Garvey, would be highly questionable; and

WHEREAS, despite widespread requests for delay from education professionals throughout the state, including numerous School Board members, the Louisiana School Board Association (LSBA), the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents (LASS), and the Louisiana Association of Principals (LAP), the state prematurely submitted to the U.S. Department of Education Louisiana’s plan for ESSA, which was formed on the basis of the highly questionable accountability system that Mr. Garvey publicly called a “lie to parents”; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish School Board sadly concludes that there is an irreparable breach of trust between the St. Tammany Parish School Board, many educational professionals, school boards across the state and Mr. Garvey, as demonstrated by his own public admission; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that if Mr. Garvey truly stands behind his statement that the current Louisiana accountability system, that he has supported for several years, is a “lie to parents”, then this Board believes Mr. Garvey should take responsibility for these actions by resigning his BESE position, and any other individual involved in developing this flawed and inferior accountability system that was mandated upon all Louisiana public schools systems should take responsibility for these actions by resigning his or her position, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that St. Tammany Parish School Board asks Mr. Garvey to appear in a public forum at a time and location of the Board’s choosing to explain his actions for supporting this flawed accountability system for so long; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be to spread upon the official minutes of this Board, with copies being sent to Jim Garvey, BESE, District 1 Representative, all BESE members, State Superintendent of Education John White, LSBA Executive Director Scott Richard, LASS President Superintendent Hollis Milton, and LAP Executive Director Debra Schum.

I, W. L. “Trey” Folse, III, Secretary of the St. Tammany Parish School Board, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at the regular session of the St. Tammany Parish School Board on April 13, 2017 held at the Robert C. Brooks, Jr. Educational Complex, Slidell, Louisiana.

W. L. “TREY” FOLSE, III
Secretary