

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

BY REPRESENTATIVE TUCKER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and express appreciation to Paul Vallas as he leaves his position as the superintendent of the Recovery School District and embarks upon new challenges and endeavors.

WHEREAS, in 2007, Paul Vallas began his highly effective term of service as superintendent of the Recovery School District (RSD); and

WHEREAS, in taking this position, Mr. Vallas assumed the tremendous challenge of turning around the state's lowest performing schools as well as rebuilding schools in Orleans Parish following Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita; and

WHEREAS, following the unprecedented devastation of these back-to-back hurricanes, Mr. Vallas led the largest public school rebuilding effort in United States history; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Vallas' distinguished tenure as superintendent, six schools were completely renovated or constructed from the ground up, and he worked tirelessly with federal, state, and local officials to successfully negotiate an unprecedented lump-sum settlement agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the amount of one billion eight hundred million dollars to rebuild New Orleans public schools; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Vallas' very skilled leadership, from 2007 until 2010, the number of students performing at grade level in the RSD increased by twenty percentage points, or eighty-seven percent, which is the largest gain of any school district statewide and four times the growth of the state average during that same time period; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, under his direction, the percentage of schools in the RSD labeled Academically Unacceptable has been reduced by half; and

WHEREAS, due largely to Mr. Vallas' vast talents and unwavering dedication, the RSD now serves as a national and international school turnaround model; and

WHEREAS, upon creating an effective and sustainable school turnaround model for the state of Louisiana, Mr. Vallas resigned as the superintendent of the RSD in April of 2011 and will now lend his unique expertise to leading educational reform efforts and serving underprivileged children in other communities, states, and countries; and

WHEREAS, Paul Vallas merits a special measure of commendation for his outstanding achievements and singular contributions to the state of Louisiana and sincere and heartfelt gratitude for his exemplary term of committed and highly productive public service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Paul Vallas as he leaves his position as the superintendent of the Recovery School District and embarks upon new challenges and endeavors, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his immeasurable contributions during his extraordinary tenure as superintendent, and does hereby extend to him abiding appreciation and best wishes for continued success as he begins the next chapter of his life and career.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Paul Vallas.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE