

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVE CARMODY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend outstanding educator, Sandra McCalla, EdD, of Shreveport, Louisiana, for her many contributions made on behalf of public education and to congratulate Dr. McCalla upon her well-deserved retirement after fifty-five years in the education profession.

WHEREAS, in June 2015, Dr. Sandra McCalla announced her retirement from Captain Shreve High School after a stellar career as a teacher of mathematics for ten years, an assistant principal for two years, and two terms as its principal; she has amassed over thirty years of devoted service to the institution whose annual enrollment tops twelve hundred students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCalla postulated that her responsibility as an administrator has always been to be the best educator possible for every student at every opportunity, and she felt an obligation to provide inspiration and encouragement for her 50 students so they would develop a lifelong interest in mathematics and master a useable skill set of math proficiency in everyday life; and

WHEREAS, Sandra McCalla possesses a gracious demeanor and a keen intellect and holds exceptional academic credentials, having earned a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from Northwestern State University, a Master of Arts in mathematics instruction, and curriculum with computer science enrichment from the University of Northern Colorado, and a Doctor of Education in educational administration from Texas A&M University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCalla has been the recipient of several outstanding fellowships for her scholarly pursuits including the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Public School Administration Scholarship, and she was a finalist for the T. M. Stinnett Academic Fellowship Award from Texas A&M University, and a Danforth Foundation Fellow; and

WHEREAS, during her interim away from Captain Shreve from 1988 until 1994, Sandra McCalla held an essential leadership position at her alma mater, Northwestern State

University, as dean and professor of its College of Education, director of its Louisiana Principal Assessment Center, and director of Louisiana LEAD, an enhanced certification program for school administrators; and

WHEREAS, during this time, Dr. McCalla also acted as an educational industry specialist for IBM and taught college-level mathematics as an adjunct professor at Louisiana State University Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, for over five decades, Dr. McCalla has applied her tireless work ethic for the benefit of public school students throughout Caddo Parish and the state of Louisiana with improvement in classroom instruction and, in particular, enhancement of school administrative leadership capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the ascent of Dr. Sandra McCalla through the hierarchy of secondary education has precipitated a myriad of recognition and awards for her competent leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, at the state level, Dr. McCalla has been named on several occasions as Principal of the Year, High School Principal of the Year, and Principal of the Year by the Association of Student Councils, and was selected for the Leadership Louisiana Academy; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCalla has witnessed advancements in educational practices during her career and implemented numerous innovations in mathematics instruction; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCalla has lent her innovative talents to include participation in the Louisiana High School Redesign Principal Leadership Team, the School and District Accountability Commission, Louisiana Tech Educational Leadership Program of Studies, LSUS/Caddo Parish School Board Partnership Task Force, the Task Force on Secondary Alternative Certification, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Louisiana Middle School Journal, and the Committee for Improvement of Educational Leadership in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCalla has also held membership on the boards of the Louisiana School for Mathematics, Science and the Arts, the North Louisiana Regional Service Center, Louisiana Association for Colleges of Teacher Education, High School Literary Rally, and the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, District 2-AAAA; and

WHEREAS, at the national level, her expertise has been recognized by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Dean's Academy of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Phi Delta Kappa Honor Fraternity, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the United States Department of Education that ranked Captain Shreve as one of the top one hundred outstanding public secondary schools in the nation; and

WHEREAS, throughout her lengthy career, Dr. Sandra McCalla has received copious awards and citations far too numerous to count; however, some noteworthy accolades include the Path to Excellence Award for Outstanding Student Achievement from the Alliance for Education, the Life Service Award from the National Parent-Teacher Association, and inclusion in the Hall of Distinguished Educators in the College of Education at Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, in her hometown of Shreveport, Dr. McCalla has been honored as the Caddo Parish School Board Educator of the Year in both the teaching and administrative categories and has served the community as a board member for the YWCA, KDAQ Public Radio, The Extra Mile organization, Volunteers of America, and the Shreveport Women's Commission; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCalla has served as a special education advocate in conjunction with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and functioned as consultant to the Acadia Parish School Board, the National Review Panel for the Coca-Cola Scholars Program, and the National Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCalla is most praiseworthy for her exceptional dedication to the teaching profession, a vocation that resonates in every fiber of her being, for her intense involvement in improved scholastic achievement, academic excellence, mathematic curriculum development, and enhanced administrative leadership in secondary education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sandra McCalla has proved to be an educator of boundless energy and ability, a person of great empathy and vision, and a teacher whose devotion to education has been a priceless gift to the public school system of Caddo Parish and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Sandra McCalla, EdD, for her many contributions to further the pursuits of mathematic education and school administration and hereby recognizes her for a lifetime of devotion to the education profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dr. Sandra McCalla leaves an indelible mark on the character of those students and faculty with whom she has shared a lifetime of learning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dr. McCalla experience great success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Sandra McCalla.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES