

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 151

BY REPRESENTATIVES WESLEY BISHOP AND BROSSETT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Orleans Parish School Board to submit a written report to the House Committee on Education, by not later than October 31, 2013, that provides an explanation of why McDonogh #35 Senior High School has not been returned to its pre-Katrina status as a magnet school with selective admissions requirements and that includes a detailed plan and time line relative to such return and a plan for the implementation of a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curriculum at the school.

WHEREAS, McDonogh #35 Senior High School has a rich history that dates back to 1917, when it was founded as the first public high school in New Orleans for African American students; and

WHEREAS, the mission of McDonogh #35 is to encourage academic excellence for all students in challenging and interactive programs that are supported by teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community, and the school's motto is "a choice, not an echo"; and

WHEREAS, McDonogh #35 holds a special place in the annals of Louisiana history; for nearly one hundred years, the school has been a cornerstone of its community, and the entire Roneagle family takes great pride in this unique education institution; and

WHEREAS, prior to Hurricane Katrina, McDonogh #35 operated as a magnet school with selective admissions requirements; and

WHEREAS, when the school reopened after the storm, it implemented an open enrollment policy in an effort to provide space for middle and high school students pending the reopening of additional schools; and

WHEREAS, there is strong community and alumni support for the return of McDonogh #35 to its magnet status with a selective admissions policy; and

WHEREAS, the magnet tradition of academic excellence at McDonogh #35 is longstanding and a fundamental part of the fabric of the school, and it is vital that this tradition not be lost; and

WHEREAS, nearly eight years have passed since Hurricane Katrina, and this historic school's return to its pre-storm magnet status with a selective admissions policy is long overdue.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Orleans Parish School Board to submit a written report to the House Committee on Education, by not later than October 31, 2013, that provides an explanation of why McDonogh #35 Senior High School has not been returned to its pre-Katrina status as a magnet school with selective admissions requirements and that includes a detailed plan and time line relative to such return and a plan for the implementation of a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curriculum at the school.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Orleans Parish School Board who shall be responsible for disseminating copies to each member of the school board.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES