

RESOLUTION

Provide Flexible Bond Funding to Support Student Choice

WHEREAS, the mission of the public education system of Texas is to ensure that all Texas children have access to quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and fully participate now and in the future in the social, economic and educational opportunities of our state and nation (Texas Education Code §4.001);

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant changes to the provision of education for Fort Bend ISD students;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to continue to transform FBISD and provide more educational choice and flexibility for our students to enable our District Mission and Vision to be achieved;

WHEREAS, as technology needs and solutions rapidly change, the use of debt financed funds to pay for technological needs remains restricted, for example debt financing may not be utilized for most cloud-based technological expenditures;

WHEREAS, State law restricts (or limits) school districts' ability to utilize debt financed funds for certain infrastructure purposes, for example pursuing public-private partnership agreements utilizing lease-purchase agreements;

WHEREAS, the Board believes that State law should not limit FBISD's ability to provide educational choice and flexibility for students; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that FBISD taxpayer debt funds should be used locally to fund and support the educational programs and opportunities desired by local taxpayers.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees strongly urge our state legislators to act on behalf of the District's more than 78,000 students and 11,000 employees to uphold their constitutional "duty ... to make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools;"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators provide flexible use of debt financed funding to support student educational choice, including providing all school districts broader permitted use of debt financed funding that is currently available to only certain select districts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators provide flexible debt financed funding that provides mechanisms allowing school districts to fund, with debt financed funds, student educational choices within their public school system, including building infrastructure for online and asynchronous programming, creating a more robust technology infrastructure and associated hardware to support staff and student needs, utilizing current cloud and other technologies to support heightened security and data backup, and transportation options for students to attend school programs of choice not at their home campus;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this priority begins within the leadership of the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees and together, we share one unified message to all involved:

We believe that all children can learn, we have high expectations for each of the students we serve, we want to use all resources to make the difference in the lives of each child, the future of Texas depends on educating our growing enrollment with diverse needs, and the public schools are charged by the Texas Constitution with this great mission for Texas.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 19th day of October 2020, by the Board of Trustees.

CERTIFICATE FOR RESOLUTION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was presented to the Board of Trustees of the Fort Bend Independent School District during a regularly scheduled meeting on October 19, 2020. A quorum of the Board of Trustees being then present, it was duly moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted, and such resolution was then adopted according to the following vote:

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

To certify which, witness my hand and the official seal of the District this 19th day of October 2020.

Vice President, Board of Trustees
FORT BEND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: _____
Addie Heyliger, Vice President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Dave Rosenthal, Secretary, Board of Trustees