

RESOLUTION

Provide Flexible Funding to Enable Student Choice

WHEREAS, the mission of the public education system of Texas is to ensure that all Texas children have access to quality education enabling 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 in a manner enabling achievement of our District Mission and Vision;

WHEREAS, the term “choice” in education has historically been used by advocates of voucher programs who assert the inadequacy of public schools, the Board believes public schools can offer more educational choices, resources, expertise, and supports for all Texas students through the legislative priorities FBISD is endorsing;

WHEREAS, as technology and educational programming and solutions rapidly change, the use of funds to pay for online and asynchronous learning models remain restricted, for example TEA largely limits funding to school districts based on Average Daily Attendance of students within a physical classroom;

WHEREAS, State law restricts (or limits) school districts’ ability to receive funds for certain online and asynchronous learning opportunities and programs that may be more suitable or desirable for some students;

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 funds should be used locally to fund and support the educational programs and opportunities of choice desired by local FBISD 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 are urged to provide funding enabling public schools to offer local taxpayers the choice to select instructional delivery models that best serve their students' needs. State law and TEA regulations must respect the authority of local districts, held accountable by local taxpayers, to use their best judgments in offering flexible educational programming for students;

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