

RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

School Finance Reform

WHEREAS, the Texas Supreme Court, despite recognizing the brokenness of the State's system of financing public education, declined to find the system unconstitutional and concluded it was up to the state legislature to fix the many deficits and inequities that plague the school finance system;

WHEREAS, during the Texas 85th Legislative Regular Session that concluded on May 29, 2017, the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate both failed to pass a bill that would have infused \$1.8 billion into public education and provided Fort Bend ISD an increase of \$8.5 million in additional state aid that would have assisted the District in funding increasing enrollment each year while maintaining programs and initiatives that are in alignment with fulfillment of Board goals and priorities after vouchers were added to the final version of the bill;

WHEREAS, Fort Bend ISD taxpayers will continue to shoulder more of the burden for educating children in 2017-18 as the State share of funding will drop down to 30.7% from 32.2% due to the flawed state funding formula, and the reduction in the share of state funding is occurring even as the District adds students, property values are increasing, and the FBISD Board of Trustees is planning on a reduction in the overall tax rate of two pennies to provide some relief to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend ISD opens three new schools in 2017-18 and has adopted a budget that will utilize \$12 million in local reserves to close the gap created by the legislature's failure to act on behalf of public education.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees respectfully empower and support our respected state legislators to act on behalf of the District's more than 74,000 students and 10,000 employees to support legislation establishing a statewide commission to study and recommend an updated and adequately funded formula-based school finance system, which takes into account our District's diverse student characteristics when determining appropriate levels of funding to meet state and local standards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Fort Bend ISD supports the efforts of HB21 and asks state legislators to support the increase in funding that was originally proposed and passed by the Texas House of Representatives during the Texas 85th Legislative Regular Session; and

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 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 17th day of July, 2017, by the Board of Trustees.