

Second Extraordinary Session, 2008

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY REPRESENTATIVE DANA HAY

A RESOLUTION

To strongly urge and request the Beauregard Parish School Board to reconsider its decision to close Hyatt High School in Fields, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, in November of 2007, the Beauregard Parish School Board voted to close Hyatt High School, disregarding a petition signed by more than eight hundred members of the community and testimony from citizens pleading with board members not to close this outstanding school; and

WHEREAS, there has been a tremendous community outcry following the board's vote, and citizens from Hyatt High School and beyond are adamantly protesting the board's unsound and unnecessary decision; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1913, Hyatt High School's present building was completed by the historic Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1940, and it provides education of the highest quality to students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade; and

WHEREAS, sixty-six percent of its students are on free and reduced lunches, and Hyatt High School's state test scores reflect academic growth; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Hyatt High School and transporting its students to other schools would have greatly detrimental effects, such as making school bus routes more dangerous and increasing students' daily school bus rides to unreasonable lengths of time, which would severely hinder their ability to spend quality time with their families, fulfill their academic responsibilities, and participate in sports and other extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, parental involvement with their children's schools would also be decreased due to the long distance from home to school; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the very significant practical and logistical problems that would be caused for students by closing Hyatt High School, shutting down such an excellent

and deeply beloved school would do irreparable damage to the spirit of its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and their families, as this educational landmark has been a vital and valued institution at the heart of its community for nearly a century; and

WHEREAS, the profoundly negative results of the closure of Hyatt High School would far outweigh whatever positive effects the school board alleges would be achieved by its unwise decision; and

WHEREAS, certainly, options other than closing this exceptional school are available, and it is imperative that the school board seriously consider alternatives and exhaust all other possibilities before closing Hyatt High School.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby strongly urge and request the Beauregard Parish School Board to reconsider its decision to close Hyatt High School in Fields, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Beauregard Parish School Board.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES