

RESOLUTION: The “Whalum Twelve” Plan

Whereas, the following twelve (12) schools were recently slated for possible closure: Alcy, E.A.Harrold, Gordon, Graves, Riverview, Shannon, and Westhaven Elementary; Corry and Lanier Middle; and Carver, Northside, and Westwood High, and

Whereas, these twelve (12) schools will remain open and operational during the entire 2013-2014 school year, and

Whereas, the value of music education in enhancing the academic achievement of all students, regardless of their socio-economic status, is an unquestioned matter of established empirical research, and

Whereas, due to fiscal constraints beyond our ability to control, Shelby County Schools have not been able to provide full time music instruction for every child, and

Whereas, over the past seven (7) years, upwards of six-hundred seventy-seven million dollars (\$677,000,000) in PILOT (Payments In Lieu Of Taxes) “tax” contracts have been awarded to scores of corporations in Memphis and Shelby County, and

Whereas, of that total amount in PILOT “tax” contracts, upwards of two-hundred twenty-eight million dollars (\$228,000,000) would have gone to fund public schools were it not for the granting of the PILOTS, and

Whereas, Shelby County Schools “believe that strong public support and community partnerships are essential for all students to excel”, and

Whereas, the following organizations have publicly and persistently professed a collective desire to assist with creating a “world class school system”: Stand For Children, SCORE, PACE, Shepherding The Next Generation, AFSCME, TFA, MEA, SCEA, PTA, Memphis and Shelby County Retired Teachers Associations, and countless others,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that Staff is hereby authorized to do the following:

1. Solicit financial contributions from each from corporations who have received PILOTS to pay for music instruction at these 12 schools that are slated for closure proceedings. A comprehensive listing of PILOT recipients can be found at www.shelbycountytrustee.com; **{Implementation Plan: (1) Publicize this opportunity via our various SCS-controlled media; (2) Emphasize to the corporate community that this method is the same one we use to ask them to pay for Board training, travel, etc.; (3) To avoid “comparability issues”, earmark dollars received as donations to the individual schools rather than donations to the District.}**
2. Arrange for the feeding of 3 nutritious meals per day to the students in those 12 schools; **{Implementation Plan: Continue existing arrangements.}**
3. Facilitate intense one-on-one tutoring, mentoring, etc. during and after school for every student in those 12 schools; **{Implementation Plan: (1) Implement “Team Reads” in the six (6) elementary schools. “Team Reads” is a structured thirty(30)-minute lesson focused on a specific academic need for the student based on the child’s learning needs as determined by testing at the beginning of the school year. “Team Reads” is currently being shared among schools through the Adopt-a-School partnership office, and is slated to replace the district’s “Our Children, Our Future” program; (2) For the Middle and High schools among The 12, we will implement with focused fidelity existing programs at that level that are comparable to “Team Reads”.**
4. Coordinate expertise and input from – among others – Stand For Children, SCORE, PACE, Shepherding The Next Generation, AFSCME, TFA, MEA, SCEA, PTA, and the Memphis and Shelby County Retired Teachers Associations to ensure excellent instruction at those 12 schools; **{Implementation Plan: Publicize this opportunity via our various SCS-controlled media,**

appealing to members of these organizations to make themselves available by contacting the Principals of either of the 12 schools. The Principals will then coordinate implementation as they see fit, which would facilitate participation on school-based decision-making councils. These particular organizations could also possibly provide professional development to teachers who will likely continue with the students. With these organizations' national platforms and connections they could provide premiere educational tools that impact student outcomes.}

5. Facilitate input, donations, etc. from churches, community members and organizations to guarantee that every student in those 12 schools receives love, attention, and direction FOR THE ONE YEAR PERIOD THOSE SCHOOLS ARE SLATED TO REMAIN OPEN. {**Implementation Plan*:** Publicize this opportunity via our various SCS-controlled media, appealing to members of these various groups to donate as they see fit by contacting the Principals of either of the 12 schools. The Principals will then coordinate implementation as they see fit.} **Author's Caveat: The school leader (Principal) is critical to the success of coordinating these volunteer efforts. Wisdom must be exercised so that resources are properly aligned with needs and expected student outcomes for each of the schools on this list.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the students' academic performance and achievement at these twelve (12) schools be measured and reported out on a weekly basis to determine the real-time effectiveness of this plan. {**Implementation Plan: Most schools conduct data meetings, and are required to engage in regional reporting in the form of a COMPSTAT report. Relevant data can be tracked and reported here.**}

Respectfully submitted by,
Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum, Jr.
MEMPHIS