Whereas, the St. Tammany Parish School Board Members and our stakeholders believe that commitment to providing a challenging and relevant curriculum will lead to constant improvement and high performance of Louisiana school systems; and

Whereas, effective instruction must meet the needs of all students allowing every child to learn at expected high levels; and

Whereas, the St. Tammany Parish School Board has unanimously opposed the Common Core State Standards since the idea was first introduced to the state of Louisiana through the rejection of a Race To The Top agreement in January of 2010 and support for a St. Tammany Parish School Board resolution asking for removal of the Saint Tammany Parish School Board and other School Districts in Louisiana from implementation of Common Core State Standards and participation in Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing in October of 2013; and

Whereas, the St. Tammany Parish School Board members are duly elected by the citizens of the parish to represent them on the local level along with the elected members of the Northshore delegation to the Louisiana legislature who all agree and believe that education is not the mandate of the Federal government or any national board; and

Whereas, the St.Tammany Parish School Board believes that the Common Core State Standards are an inappropriate overreach based on standards that do not allow for local educational autonomy, does not allow deviation from a set of standards that are unproven while reflecting the interests and priorities of corporate education reformers and small interest groups, were piloted incorrectly, implemented too quickly and as a result has produced developmentally inappropriate expectations that do not meet the needs of every child, every day; and

Whereas, the members of the St. Tammany Parish School Board believe the PARRC testing no longer represents a consortium that will benchmark our students performance on a national level based on a dwindling membership; and

Whereas, our belief is that Louisiana educators along with parents, local business members, school superintendents, education stakeholder associations, and school board members should develop and implement a set of Louisiana Educational Standards that will reflect our state’s commitment to providing a challenging and relevant curriculum, innovative instruction, and accountability that will lead to solid student achievement gains while allowing students to flourish as life long learners; and

Whereas, we further believe that high quality schools and exemplary school achievement are the responsibility of the local community with backing and support from members of the Louisiana legislature, elected and appointed Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education members, the appointed State Superintendent of Education and the elected Governor of the state of Louisiana.

Now therefore be it resolved that the members of the St. Tammany Parish School Board do hereby respectfully request members of the Louisiana legislature to join school board members and citizens across the great state of Louisiana to support removing Louisiana from the Common Core State Standards and charging the Louisiana State Superintendent of Education and Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education with developing, along with stakeholders input, Louisiana Standards for Education Excellence.

Furthermore, the members of the St. Tammany Parish School Board do herby request an immediate moratorium on participating in PARRC testing by Louisiana students and at this time suggest using the current Louisiana assessments until a new assessment instrument is developed.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of this Board, with copies being sent to Governor Bobby Jindal, State Superintendent of Education John White, members of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, all members of the Louisiana Legislature, the President and Superintendent of every Louisiana School Board, the executive director of the Louisiana School Board Association, all public education stakeholder organizations/associations, all declared candidates for Governor in the 2016 Louisiana governor’s race, presidents or chairmen of every Louisiana parish government, Chamber of Commerce offices in Louisiana and all schools in St. Tammany Parish.