ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. _____

The following resolution was offered by_____seconded by_____:

A resolution that the Orleans Parish School Board adopt and support the recommendations of the Early Childhood Education Working Group, including the principles for expansion of early childhood education seats, the commitment to serve as the lead convener and coordinator of partners to pursue a local revenue-raising campaign for early childhood education, and the authorization of a total one-time allocation of up to a maximum of $1,500,000.00 from the Orleans Parish School Board general fund balance to an Early Childhood Education Grant Fund to provide reimbursement of non-recurring expenses for centers participating in the New Orleans Early Education Network's program to expand seats, supported by the City of New Orleans.

WHEREAS, nearly 10,000 low income families in New Orleans do not have access to affordable, quality early learning programs for children aged 0-4; and,

WHEREAS, children who attend quality preschool programs are three times more likely to go to college and own a home later in life; and,

WHEREAS, "Expand access to early childhood education" was one of the eight long-term goals approved by the Orleans Parish School Board during the November 16, 2017 board business meeting; and,

WHEREAS, research shows every dollar invested in high quality early learning programs yields more than $13 for the local community through better education, economic, health and social outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, during its board business meeting on May 17, 2018, the Orleans Parish School Board established an Early Childhood Working Group to research and provide recommendations to the School Board regarding a strategy to expand access to high-quality early childhood education to families and children in Orleans Parish; and,

WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Working Group was requested to present its recommendations to the School Board by no later than the October 2018 School Board business meeting; and,

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2018, the Early Childhood Education Working Group presented its recommendations to the Orleans Parish School Board, which included the following general principles for the expansion of early childhood education in New Orleans:

1. Identify and secure additional local funding to create new 0-4 seats in New Orleans, and to provide supplemental funding to bring existing seats up to a high-quality level;
2. Use new funding raised for children across all income levels, using a sliding scale, with a focus on addressing the pronounced need for 0-4 year-olds who currently qualify for free, publicly-funded seats;

3. Pursue funding for students aged 0-4 without any reduction in currently existing K-12 funding;
4. Use a portion of new funds raised to scale up Lead Agency capacity to support the expansion of high-quality early childhood education seats.

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2018, the Early Childhood Education Working Group also recommended that the Orleans Parish School Board commit to the following:

1. Serve as the lead convener and coordinator, in partnership with the local Lead Agency and the Early Childhood Education Working Group, to identify and secure local funding for the expansion of access to high-quality early childhood education to children and families in Orleans Parish;
2. Authorize a total one-time, non-recurring allocation of up to a maximum of $1,500,000.00 from the Orleans Parish School Board general fund balance to an Early Childhood Education Grant Fund to provide reimbursement of non-recurring expenses for centers receiving funds from the City of New Orleans for expansion of early childhood education seats.

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 17:407.30 allows the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to award a local school board with a match of up to 50% of any funds the local school board directs to early childhood care and education; and,

WHEREAS, the Orleans Parish School Board desires to partner with the City of New Orleans to support a pilot early childhood education expansion program, providing a successful model for future efforts to raise local, dedicated tax revenues for early childhood education in New Orleans; and,

WHEREAS, the Orleans Parish School Board desires to allocate $1,500,000.00 from its general fund balance to fund said priorities and efficiencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Orleans Parish School Board determines that such an allocation is a permissible use of the system-wide reserve, pursuant to the provisions of Policy DC, *Annual Operating Budget*, that authorize such use for unforeseen, exceptional circumstances as follows:

(1) The non-recurring allocation of up to a maximum of $1,500,000 from the general fund balance for early childhood education expansion is not reasonably anticipated to recur, and is expected to capture system-wide efficiencies to direct more resources to students;
(2) Nearly 10,000 low income families in New Orleans do not have access to affordable, quality early learning programs;
(3) The Orleans Parish School Board has the ability to direct those funds so that additional state matching funds may be obtained to address the extreme need for expanded early childhood care and education;
(4) The Orleans Parish School Board, in partnership with the City of New Orleans, desires to leverage the early childhood expansion activities made possible with these funds as a demonstration pilot project for securing additional district revenue sources for early childhood education, resulting in the direction of more resources to students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orleans Parish School Board adopt and support the recommendations of the Early Childhood Education Working Group, including the principles for expansion of early childhood education seats, the commitment to serve as the lead convener and coordinator of partners to pursue a local revenue-raising campaign for early childhood education, and the authorization of a total one-time allocation of up to a maximum of $1,500,000.00 from the Orleans Parish School Board general fund balance to an Early Childhood Education Grant Fund to provide reimbursement of non-recurring expenses for centers participating in the New Orleans Early Education Network's program to expand seats, supported by the City of New Orleans.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:
NAYS:
ABSENTS:
ABSTENTIONS:

PASSED AND ADOPTED AT THE ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS MEETING held at Timbers, 3520 General deGaulle Drive, Multi-purpose Room 1050, New Orleans, Louisiana, on the____day of_____, 2018.

ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

_____

John A. Brown, Sr., President