

Parent Call to Action - Lusher Charter Funding Email

From: Lusher Board and Administration <noreply@lusherschool.org>

Date: Monday, January 25, 2016

Subject: Parent Call to Action

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

Dear Lusher parents:

In an effort to create uniformity in funding for Orleans Parish school students, a government-appointed committee may be threatening the future of Lusher Charter School.

A complex, but fair funding formula developed by state officials has been in place for more than two decades. Now a special task force wants to dismantle the working formula only for Orleans Parish students. The result will mean that our school will lose more than \$1,277, 000 annually in addition to the \$400,000 reduction we received this school year, and in total is 11.65% of Lusher's operating budget. We need your dedication to your child's future, your love of Lusher and your passion for the improved education system in Orleans Parish to ensure all students are treated fairly, and historically successful schools like ours are not penalized.

Here's how you can help! Get involved now! Write a letter to the Orleans Parish School Board members and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education members telling them that ACT 467 of the 2015 Legislative Session does not give the Recovery School District the license to rob Orleans Parish charter school students of more than \$6 million annually and their future. We have detailed the

critical points below empowering you with the information to compose your letter to our elected officials. We have also given you the names, addresses, telephone numbers and emails of the members noted above who need to hear from parents like you that we are not willing to sacrifice our children's success.

We hope you will join us in this effort to ensure that our voices are heard. We are counting on your strong support.

Sincerely,

Blaine LeCesne, President and the Lusher Charter Board

Kathy Riedlinger, CEO and the Lusher Administration

Critical Points of funding issue created by ACT 467

- The Louisiana State Constitution of 1974 states 'the goal of the public education system is to provide learning environments and experiences, at all stages of human development, that are humane, just and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop his full potential.'
- According to the Louisiana Department of Education website, 'under the Minimum Foundation Program, Louisiana annually adopts a formula to equitably allocate funding for education to school districts.'
- A bill authored by State Senator Dan Claitor from East Baton Rouge, created a task force that would require a different formula be adopted only for Orleans Parish students.
- The task force has proposed a formula that provides less state funding to Orleans Parish students than all other school boards across the state.
- The state funded base would be \$1,537 lower per student using the proposed formula.
- The students in Orleans Parish deserve the same level of funding as the public students around the rest of our state.

- The proposed heavily weighted formula means the funding base for all students is not adequate to ensure continued academic success.
- All students regardless of ethnicity, socio-economic background and ability deserve adequate funding to ensure their success in the classroom and throughout life.
- Historically successful schools' budgets are being gutted to fund historically underperforming & mismanaged schools under the guise that the successful schools educate 'privileged' students.
- Students with exceptionalities should receive additional funding so the appropriate education services can adequately be provided to these students.
- It is incumbent on BESE members & Legislators to understand the importance of increasing funding for Special Education students, but not by reducing the base funding for all students.
- All schools within Orleans Parish, whether chartered through OPSB or the RSD, should adopt a common transparent oversight process for determining students' exceptionalities and providing the necessary additional services those students receive.

Orleans Parish Charter Schools negatively affected

Alice M. Harte Elementary Charter School - \$244,500

Audubon Charter School - \$478,900

Benjamin Franklin High School - \$919,800

Edna Karr High School - \$326,300

Edward Hynes Charter School - \$429,600

Lake Forest Elementary Charter School - \$435,800

Lusher Charter School - \$1,277,200

New Orleans Charter Science & Math High School - \$115,000

Robert Russo Moton Charter School - \$335,600

Warren Easton - \$717,700

Orleans Parish School Board Members

District 1 – The Honorable John Brown, Sr. – board_member1@opsb.us

District 2 – The Honorable Cynthia Cade - board_member2@opsb.us

District 3 – The Honorable Sarah Usdin - board_member3@opsb.us

District 4 – The Honorable Leslie Ellison - board_member4@opsb.us

District 5 – The Honorable Seth Bloom - board_member5@opsb.us

District 6 – The Honorable Woody Koppel - board_member6@opsb.us

District 7 – The Honorable Nolan Marshall, Jr. - board_member7@opsb.us

Orleans Parish School Board Superintendent Henderson Lewis -
Superintendent@opsb.us

Address: Orleans Parish School Board
The Honorable _____
3520 General DeGaulle Drive
Suite 5055
New Orleans, LA 70114

Phone: [\(504\) 304-3520](tel:5043043520)

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Members (BESE)

District 1 – The Honorable James ‘Jim’ Garvey, Jr. - james.garvey@la.gov

Address: Hailey, McNamara, Hall, Larman & Papale, LLP

The Honorable Jim Garvey, Jr.

One Galleria Boulevard

Suite 1400

Metairie, LA 70001

Phone: [\(504\) 836-6500](tel:5048366500)

District 2 – The Honorable Kira Orange Jones - kira.orangejones@la.gov

District 3 – The Honorable Sandy Holloway - sandy.holloway@la.gov

District 4 – The Honorable Tony Davis - tony.davis@la.gov

District 5 – The Honorable Gary Jones - gary.jones@la.gov

District 6 – The Honorable Kathy Edmonston - kathy.edmonston@la.gov

District 7 – The Honorable Holly Boffy - holly.boffy@la.gov

Phone: [\(337\) 354-5572](tel:3373545572)

District 8 – The Honorable Jada Lewis - jada.lewis@la.gov

Member-at-Large – The Honorable Thomas Roque - Thomas.roque@la.gov

Member-at-Large - The Honorable Lurie Thomason - lurie.thomason@la.gov

Member-at-Large – The Honorable Doris Voitier - doris.voitier@la.gov

Louisiana State Superintendent John White - john.white@la.gov

Address: Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

The Honorable _____

P.O. Box 94064

Capital Station

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Phone: [\(225\) 342-5840](tel:(225)342-5840)

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