

On motion by Louis Richard, seconded by Michael Delatte, the following resolution was introduced and adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-038

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND THE STATE LEGISLATORS RECONSIDER THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC AND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lafourche Parish Council convened in regular session on January 27, 2009, that it does hereby request the Governor of the State of Louisiana and the State Legislators reconsider the proposed budget cuts to higher education, and public and catholic schools.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has a deficit of \$341,000,000.00 and the Governor is attempting to reduce the deficit to balance the budget through cuts to higher education; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana ranked last in the South in funding per college student according to the Regional Education Board Fact Book in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana received an F on its higher education report card from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education in 2008 for the low number of students going to college and difficulty in paying for college; and

WHEREAS, at the current funding rate for higher education in Louisiana, more than 50% of students require more than six (6) years to obtain a four (4) year degree; and

WHEREAS, higher education is less than 5% of the State budget, but the \$109,000,000.00 in proposed cuts to higher education is a 32% cut to the higher education budget; and

WHEREAS, other States are investing in higher education in a strategic effort to reduce economic woes; and

WHEREAS, the Lafourche Parish Council urges everyone to aggressively support this resolution and contact the Governor and the Legislative Representatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lafourche Parish Council hereby urges the Governor and the Legislature to (1) recognize the importance of higher education to economic stability and growth and refuse to CRIPPLE the integrity of its small budget with a 32% cut; (2) pledge its support of the future leaders, educators, and of jobs in Louisiana by supporting NO MORE than a 5% cut to higher education; and (3) use the Rainy Day Fund of \$745,000,000.00 to reduce the deficit and balance the budget.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor of the State of Louisiana; State Legislators; and the Office of the Parish Administrator.

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

YEAS: Mr. Jerry Jones
Mr. Michael Delatte
Mr. Louis Richard
Mr. Joseph "Joe" Fertitta
Mr. Matt Matherne
Mr. Lindel Toups
Mr. Phillip Gouaux
Mr. Rodney Doucet
Mr. Daniel Lorraine

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

And the resolution was declared adopted this 27th day of January, 2009.

**JERRY JONES, CHAIRMAN
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**

**CARLEEN B. BABIN, COUNCIL CLERK
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**

* * * * *

I, CARLEEN B. BABIN, Council Clerk for the Lafourche Parish Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 09-038, adopted by the Assembled Council in Regular Session on January 27, 2009, at which meeting a quorum was present.

GIVEN UNDER MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE AND SEAL OF OFFICE THIS 2ND, DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2009.

**CARLEEN B. BABIN, COUNCIL CLERK
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**