WHEREAS, school districts in Louisiana are charged with providing safe and reliable transportation for school children; and

WHEREAS, during the course of a school year, hundreds of thousands of public and nonpublic students in Louisiana are transported to and from school daily, with school buses traveling hundreds of thousands of miles daily to transport students; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, the State Department of Education, and the St. Tammany Parish School Board are dedicated to promoting measures that ensure the safe and reliable transport of our school children; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish School Board recognizes that safety and reliability depend in large measure on the proper maintenance and operation of school buses and on maintaining a skilled and dedicated workforce of school bus owner/operators; and

WHEREAS, school bus owner/operators have experienced significant increases in the cost of maintaining and operating their buses, particularly as fuel costs soar, without accompanying increases in operational allowances from the State; and

WHEREAS, attracting and maintaining a workforce of bus owner/operators has become increasingly difficult, not only for the St. Tammany Parish Public School System but for school districts across the State; and

WHEREAS, school bus owner/operators should not meet with onerous expenses that discourage ownership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Tammany Parish School Board hereby urges the State of Louisiana to provide additional funding to the school bus operational expense allowance in order to help owner/operators continue maintaining safe, reliable school buses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of this Board and that a copy be sent to every member of the St. Tammany Parish Legislative delegation and all other members of the Louisiana Legislature.

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I, Gayle Sloan, Secretary of the St. Tammany Parish School Board, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at the special session of the St. Tammany Parish School Board on March 18, 2008 held at its regular meeting place, the Parish School Board Office, Covington, Louisiana.

[signature]

GYALE SLOAN
Secretary