WHEREAS, the Vision 2020 Commission was created to assist the Tangipahoa Parish School Board in the development of effective approaches to long-range planning for the school system’s instructional and support functions; and

WHEREAS, the Vision 2020 Commission’s Steering Committee has established the Facility Assessment Committee and tasked it with assessing the facility needs of the Tangipahoa Parish School System so that a strategic and efficient plan can be developed to address said needs; and

WHEREAS, our committee’s work has revealed the following facts thus far:

1) 130 temporary structures are used throughout the parish
2) 272 permanent structures require maintenance throughout the parish
3) 90% of the Parish’s school buildings are over 25 years old and 60% of the school buildings are 50 years old or older.
4) In 2014, TPSB had professional architects perform a comprehensive, parish-wide needs assessment of the school system’s facilities. This assessment identified nearly $65 million worth of facility improvements needed to bring the system’s facility to an acceptable level. Of these identified needs, over $10 million of them were deemed “critical” (as of 2014), and over $13 million for the basic purpose of keeping AC and sewer related services operational at the schools.
5) Since the 2014 assessment, our committee’s work has already identified an additional $18,605,000 worth of facilities needs and we have not completed our assessment; and

WHEREAS, the outdated designs of many or our aged school building are not suited for education in the 21st Century (for example, many of our PreK classrooms do not have bathrooms, causing instruction to be interrupted each time a student needs to use the restroom); and

WHEREAS, the TPSS does not have a recurring source of revenue dedicated to the upkeep and expansion of school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the failure to have a recurring source of revenue dedicated to facilities has created a situation within the system where only the most urgent facility needs can be addressed, rather than a more strategic and efficient approach; and

WHEREAS, the failure to have a recurring source of revenue dedicated to facilities has caused the system to resort to the use of inefficient temporary buildings where additional classroom space is needed, rather than a permanent structures; and

WHEREAS, this committee cannot develop a strategic and efficient plan to address facility needs without knowing what funds will be made available annually to implement such a plan.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED; that Vision 2020 Commission’s Facility Assessment Committee requests that Vision 2020 Commission send to the TPSB an emergency request that they identify a recurring source of revenue dedicated to facilities needs so that a more strategic and efficient long-range approach can be taken to address the extensive public school facility needs throughout the Parish.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; THAT THIS REQUEST BE SENT TO THE TPSB BE SENT ALONG WITH A REQUEST THAT THEY RESPOND WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED SO THAT THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE CAN CONTINUE.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF TANGIPAHOA


LANNY CONERLY
LEMAR MARSHALL