RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE TUSCALOOSA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM – ALABAMA’S 2021 NOMINEE FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education annually recognizes top school systems nationwide who are successfully creating eco-friendly and sustainable school environments; and

WHEREAS, only our nation’s most efficient school districts and institutions can earn the prestigious Green Ribbon School Award; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Tuscaloosa City School System has been nominated for this highly respected award for its innovative strategic planning and commitment to constructing energy-efficient facilities throughout its local school system and community; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education proudly recognizes the Tuscaloosa City School System for its long-standing commitment to preserving Alabama’s natural resources by lowering its energy use, reducing its carbon footprint, and creating an eco-friendly school environment for all students; and

WHEREAS, this school system provides service to nearly 11,000 students each day; and

WHEREAS, this school system has created a highly respected green culture throughout its community, where students flourish and local residents support energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, this school system started renovating all school facilities to increase systemwide energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Tuscaloosa City School System’s eco-plan has allowed five local schools to be completely rebuilt using environmentally friendly materials and construction methods; and

WHEREAS, 11 additional Tuscaloosa City Schools have also been completely renovated and now utilize cutting-edge energy saving equipment; and

WHEREAS, several of the system’s school campuses incorporate special outdoor spaces and gardens to encourage students and families to explore the great outdoors; and

WHEREAS, Tuscaloosa City School System is also a leader in alternative fuel use – this school system has converted a majority of its fleet to propane-fueled transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Tuscaloosa City School System has been invited many times to provide national and regional “Listen and Learn” tours on its environmental energy saving efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Tuscaloosa City School System has decreased water waste by installing new efficient water fountains and bathroom fixtures in all schools; and

WHEREAS, its schools actively participate in cardboard and paper product recycling; and
WHEREAS, to increase air quality and reduce student asthma triggers, the Tuscaloosa City School System has installed updated air purifier systems and HEPA filters in high-traffic school building areas, gymnasiums, libraries, and administrative offices; and

WHEREAS, Tuscaloosa City School System’s students and families are provided access to health services throughout the academic year, including free flu shots provided in partnership with the Health Heroes organization; and

WHEREAS, this school system also fosters wellness for all students by partnering with programs, such as Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) to prevent child neglect; and

WHEREAS, this innovative school system also developed Tuscaloosa CAN! to help eliminate food insecurity in West Alabama – more than 80,000 pounds of food has already been distributed throughout the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the Tuscaloosa City School System for its long-standing commitment to environmental excellence, and does hereby express heartfelt congratulations to all students, parents, and educators in this top performing school district.

Done this 13th day of May 2021