

RESOLUTION HONORING THE JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND, MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, FOR PERFORMANCE ON AMERICA'S GOT TALENT

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes, appreciates, and encourages the intellectual, social/emotional, and professional benefit of arts education, including but not limited to, the establishment of musical and marching bands; and

WHEREAS, through their hard work and determination, the Jefferson Davis (JD) High School marching band, Montgomery County School System, has garnered the attention of music lovers across the nation as they competed on the nationally syndicated television program, America's Got Talent – currently on its 15th season; and

WHEREAS, the JD marching band, as a result of their continued practice, hard work, coordinated efforts, and professional leadership under band director Mr. Brandon Howard, appeared on the hit television show in July of 2020, impressing the celebrity judges Simon Cowell, Howie Mandel, and Sofia Vergara; and

WHEREAS, not only were the celebrity judges impressed, but the JD High School band performance received nearly more than 670,888 views and nearly 1,000 positive comments on the show's YouTube platform alone; and

WHEREAS, Arts education nurtures the creation of a welcoming school environment where students can express themselves in a safe and positive way, and music and the arts are recognized as part of a well-rounded education; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education believes that all students should have access to an equitable delivery of arts education that supports their educational, social, and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education supports arts education as an essential function and endorses numerous national organizations' statement of support that it is imperative that all students have access to an equitable delivery of arts education that includes dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts that supports their educational, social, and emotional well-being, taught by certified professional arts educators in partnership with community arts providers:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby extend congratulations to Jefferson Davis High School marching band, Montgomery County School System, the parents, teachers, community members, and contributors who made this event possible.

Done this 10th day of September 2020