

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL URGING  
THE INDIANA SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO INVESTIGATE  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE  
UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY, AND URGING  
FURTHER ACTIONS AS SET FORTH HEREIN.**

**WHEREAS**, a healthy and vibrant community school system is a vital part of the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the residents within that community;

**WHEREAS**, a well-regarded school system can have a significant impact on whether a family chooses to move into a community and/or continues living there;

**WHEREAS**, having school facilities located near residents can build stronger ties within a community;

**WHEREAS**, there has been a concerning trend in St. Joseph County regarding closures of schools in the unincorporated areas of St. Joseph County;

**WHEREAS**, the South Bend Community School Corporation has voted to close, consolidate, repurpose, or merge ten (10) schools in St. Joseph County over the last seven (7) years;

**WHEREAS**, despite the objections of many St. Joseph County residents, the South Bend Community School Corporation voted on April 17, 2023, to close Clay High School;

**WHEREAS**, the unincorporated areas of St. Joseph County which include Greene, Clay, Warren, and German Townships have a combined population of roughly 55,000 people;

**WHEREAS**, these unincorporated areas of St. Joseph County make up a substantial portion of the tax base that contributes to the South Bend Community School Corporation;

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned areas will be left without a community based high school to service these unincorporated areas should Clay High School close;

**WHEREAS**, the voters located within the South Bend Community School Corporation passed a \$220 million dollar bond referendum in June of 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned bond referendum was proposed to raise \$20.8 million dollars per year over eight years for the district's operating budgets, alongside \$54 million dollars for capital improvements;

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, \$16,738,876 of local property tax revenue received by South Bend Community School Corporation was spent on debt service, and \$4,597,852 of referendum dollars were allocated by South Bend Community School Corporation to debt service;

**WHEREAS**, the County Council of St. Joseph County, Indiana is concerned regarding the expenditure of monies from the 2020 bond referendum, and its impact on residents within the unincorporated areas of the County when school buildings are being closed;

**WHEREAS**, the State of Indiana Secretary of Education may choose to reorganize and divide an existing school corporation if she “considers further reorganization necessary to improve educational opportunities for the students in the county” under Ind. Code § 20-23-4-38(b);

**WHEREAS**, on June 15, 2023 a request was made by Save Clay Inc. (a nonprofit entity dedicated to saving Clay High School) requesting Indiana Secretary of Education, Dr. Katie Jenner, to conduct a study regarding whether reorganization of the South Bend Community School Corporation is warranted to create a new school corporation to service the unincorporated areas of St. Joseph County;

**WHEREAS**, the County Council seeks to show its support for the request by Save Clay, Inc. to the Indiana Secretary of Education to determine if a new school corporation would better service the unincorporated areas of St. Joseph County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY INDIANA AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The County Council hereby states its support for the Secretary of Education to conduct a study regarding the creation of a new school corporation to service the unincorporated areas of St. Joseph County.

2. The President of the County Council and/or any member of the Council may forward a copy of this Resolution to the Indiana Secretary of Education.

3. The President of the Council shall invite the Superintendent of the South Bend Community Council to attend a Committee meeting of the Council to report to the Council on the financial status of the School Corporation and the closures of school buildings in the unincorporated areas of the County, and any plans for opening school facilities within unincorporated areas of the County, and to answer such other questions as the Council and its members may have regarding the health and stability of the School Corporation and its responsiveness to the needs of residents in the unincorporated areas of the County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the above-stated Resolution has been duly adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

PASSED by the County Council of St. Joseph County, Indiana by a vote of \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ of all members present and voting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

This Resolution approved and signed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, at the hour of \_\_\_\_ o'clock P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL

**VOTES**

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor, St. Joseph County, Indiana