

Resolution of Censure

1. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe did on January 11, 2007, swear under oath that he would faithfully execute the duties of the office of Harris County Department of Education Board of Trustees; and
2. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe is responsible for board participation in accordance with Policy BBF (Local) delineating board member ethics; and
3. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe refused to be sworn into office with other newly elected members at the regular board meeting scheduled for that purpose, electing instead to make arrangements to have the oath administered to him at a separate time and location; and
4. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe promised via personal webpage his support on several key issues, including his support for eliminating the tax rate, which would result in discontinuing existence of the Department, adversely financially affecting the districts served; and
5. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe has failed to notify the Department or other board members of his whereabouts for over three months. Board agenda and other official Department information mailed to the address he identified have been returned to the Department unread. Phone calls, emails, and other attempts to communicate with him have been met with non-response; and,
6. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe while publicly criticizing the Board and the Department for lack of fiscal responsibility has failed to participate responsibly in HCDE fiscal matters such as the budget development process, the tax rate setting and the associated audit activities. Of the critical, three-month series of meetings leading up to these vital fiscal decisions, Mr. Wolfe attended only the 35 minute wrap-up budget committee meeting; and
7. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe ignoring warnings by the Board and superintendent, did continuously act in direct violation of the Board's granted authority and approved board-operating procedures by contacting department staff to schedule meetings and visits, interviewing client school administration, and conversing with the press directly. Many of these incidents resulted in miscommunications, deliberately distorted information and wasted resources of staff, administration and the Board; and
8. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe, has continuously created or publicly supported untrue communications about the Department's growth, its budget, and the actions of the Board all of which resulted in the Department and the actions of the Board being portrayed as fiscally irresponsible; and

9. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe had not attended a board meeting since November 2007 (absent without prior notification from meetings on December 18, 2007; January 22, 2008; February 26, 2008); and
10. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe, as a board elected representative, has not attended a meeting of the Harris County Department of Education's Public Facilities Corporation Board since September 2007 (absent without prior notification from meetings in August 2007, December 2007, February 2008); and
11. WHEREAS the Board (in February 2007) elected Mr. Michael Wolfe as their representative to the Head Start Area I Policy Council and, in that role, he neglected his obligation to be trained in the Council's policies and to participate in mandatory interviews by the federal review team during the tri-annual review. After being absent half of the meetings without prior notification, the Board changed his assignment to alternate in November 2007. Subsequent to that change in assignment, Mr. Wolfe declined to attend the January 2008 Policy Council meeting at the request of an ill representative; and
12. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe, having delayed actionable items by requesting that all items on the consensus agenda be exempted, and knowing an item on the published agenda was specific to his lack of participation in his committee assignment, did leave the regularly called meeting of October 16, 2007, without notification thereby causing lack of quorum. The meeting was forced into recess until another member, absent due to illness, could travel to the meeting so that the Department's business could be resumed; and
13. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe did not record within the required statutory timeframe with the County Superintendent's Senior Executive Assistant an official certificate of completion of board member training in the Texas Open Meetings Act approved by the Texas Attorney General satisfying the requirements set forth in Texas Government Code section 551.005; and, by his own omission he did not read or respond to the material sent to him regarding this issue; and
14. WHEREAS Mr. Wolfe threatened Board Members during an Executive Session and when asked to confirm the threat, he did not deny that it was a threat against the Board members; and

15. WHEREAS Mr. Michael Wolfe has not complied with these and other ethical and governmental duties of a member of the Board, thereby by engaging in gross carelessness in the discharge of his Board duties, which constitutes incompetency under the law, and causing significant adverse affects on the morale of the Department and its operations.

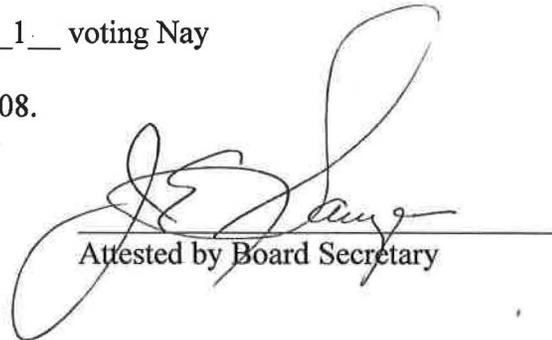
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Harris County Department of Education does officially censure Mr. Michael Wolfe and respectfully requests that he resign from the Board immediately permitting the Board to replace him with a qualified citizen prepared to fulfill the duties and ethical standards of the Board.

The members of the governing body voted on the resolution as follows:

 6 voting Aye and 1 voting Nay

Passed and approved this 30th day of April, 2008.


Attested by Board President


Attested by Board Secretary