



## **SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. 04-2024**

### **A SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH BEND COMMON COUNCIL RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RISE UP ACADEMY AND ITS STUDENTS**

*Whereas*, Rise Up Academy is an alternative high school in South Bend, Indiana; and

*Whereas*, Rise Up Academy's curriculum, which is open to under-credited students, engages students through project-based instruction; and

*Whereas*, students of Rise Up Academy are recommended by administrators from other South Bend Community School High Schools as students who could benefit from the small environment and intense support that Rise Up Academy provides; and

*Whereas*, students, upon first arriving at Rise Up Academy, are often discouraged and frightened, knowing that their future is bleak if they fail to earn a high school diploma; and

*Whereas*, Rise Up Academy allows students to explore alternative pathways toward a high school diploma; and

*Whereas*, Rise Up Academy's students learn within a flexible academic and vocationally oriented curriculum through increased access to desirable roles, community and parental participation, and mentorship; and

*Whereas*, students recommended to Rise Up Academy are given a much better opportunity to graduate than they would have had with their cohort if they remained in the traditional high school program; and;

*Whereas*, Rise Up Academy's principal, Mr. Francois Bayingana, and the staff gives the students hope for their future; and

*Whereas*, Rise Up Academy has created a restorative atmosphere in which students' confidence is restored, their faith in adults around them is restored and the students are taught to have a restorative mindset in their interactions with their peers and with the staff; and

*Whereas*, the South Bend Community School Corporation, under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Todd Cummings, has achieved its highest graduation rate in twenty years; and

*Whereas*, Rise Up Academy's continuing success is shown by its results with the graduation rate doubling in 2021-2022, doubling again and reaching 84% in 2022-2023, and exceeding its goal by graduating at least 91% in 2023-2024, the highest graduation rate in the history of Rise Up Academy; and

*Whereas*, these graduation rates rank Rise Up Academy as achieving the highest graduation rates among all alternative schools in the State of Indiana; and

*Whereas*, even more success is on the horizon through the award of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) from the Next Generation School Improvement Grant to implement an Extended Learning Program to be used over the next three years.

*Now, therefore, be it Resolved by South Bend Common Council as Follows:*

Section I. On behalf of the citizens of the City of South Bend, Indiana, we proudly acknowledge and applaud the success of Rise Up Academy and its students under the direction of Superintendent Dr. Todd Cummings, South Bend School Corporation Director of Student Learning Howard Edwards, Rise Up Academy Principal Francois Bayingana, and District Administrator Joseph Somers.

Section II. We look forward to the future achievements of the students and their contributions to our, or other, communities.

Section III. We resolve to support Rise Up Academy in its future work.

Section IV. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage by the South Bend Common Council and approval by the Mayor.



*Approved this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024*

*Sharon L. McBride*

Sharon McBride, Council President & 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Representative  
South Bend Common Council

*Canneth J. Lee*

Canneth Lee, 1<sup>st</sup> District Representative  
South Bend Common Council

*Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers*

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative  
South Bend Common Council

*Troy Warner*

Troy Warner, 4<sup>th</sup> District Representative  
South Bend Common Council

*Sherry L. Bolden-Simpson*

Sherry Bolden-Simpson, 5<sup>th</sup> District Representative  
South Bend Common Council

*Sheila Niezgodski*

Sheila Niezgodski, Council Vice-President & 6<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative  
South Bend Common Council

*Karen L. White*

Karen L. White, At-Large Council Representative  
South Bend Common Council

*Dr. Oliver J. Davis*

Dr. Oliver J. Davis, At-Large Council Representative  
South Bend Common Council

*Rachel Tomas Morgan*

Rachel Tomas Morgan, At-Large Council Representative  
South Bend Common Council

