



**Manatee County Republican Executive Committee**

**RESOLUTION 4.2022**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RESIGNATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**OF THE MANATEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Whereas in 2017, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), in its report, stated “based upon witness testimony and documentation received, the OIG determined that the allegation that Manatee County School District Deputy Superintendent Cynthia Saunders directed staff to code students pursuing GED as home education students creating falsely inflated graduation rates was **Substantiated**,”

Whereas in 2018, the Florida Commissioner of Education found “probable cause exists to justify sanctions against [Cynthia Saunders’] Florida educator certificate. Penalties levied against [Ms. Saunders] may include ... the permanent revocation of [her] Educator Certificate;”

Whereas in 2019, a proposed settlement was reached between the DOE and Ms. Saunders which was subject to the approval of the Education Practices Commission (EPC);

Whereas In October 2019, the EPC subsequently convened and unanimously rejected the proposed settlement. Christie Gold, the presiding officer, stated “I’m not happy with the settlement at all” and “This doesn’t seem like a sanction at all to me.” Kathy Wilks, a committee member, stated “I feel like we hold our teachers, our coaches, to higher standards” and “I feel like a loophole is being taken advantage of with this;”

Whereas in March 2022, after the EPC rejected the previous proposed settlement 2 ½ years earlier, the EPC convened and approved a new settlement that was substantially the same as the previous rejected settlement;

Whereas one can only imagine the harm Ms. Saunders caused to the approx. 115 children involved; now,

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Manatee County Republican Executive Committee, based upon the foregoing, demands the resignation of Superintendent Saunders, and further if a resignation does not occur immediately, this Committee demands that the School Board terminate Ms. Saunders employment forthwith.

Adopted on the 28th day of March in the year of our Lord 2022 with a quorum of the Manatee County Republican Executive Committee present

**Steve Vernon, Chairman**  
**Manatee County Republican Executive Committee**  
**Republican Party of Manatee County**

**Steve Vernon**  
Chairman

**Garin Hoover**  
Vice Chairman

**Sandy Piper**  
Secretary

**Bruce Stamm**  
Treasurer

**Dave Matthews**  
State Committeeman

**Cindy Spray**  
State Committeewoman