

1 HR267  
2 213965-1  
3 By Representative Ledbetter  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 04-MAY-21

COMMENDING FORT PAYNE CITY SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT  
JIM CUNNINGHAM FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, we extend highest commendations to Fort Payne City Schools Superintendent Jim Cunningham for 36 committed years of service; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Cunningham has been diligently serving Fort Payne City Schools in Fort Payne, Alabama, for the past 36 years; he retires on October 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a native of Fort Payne and a 1975 graduate of Fort Payne High School, Superintendent Cunningham graduated from Jacksonville State University in 1979, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education; shortly after graduation, he began his career in Jackson County; in 1984, he began working at Jacksonville State University; he has held various positions within the Fort Payne City Schools system, including Assistant Principal at Fort Payne High School, Principal at Forest Avenue Elementary School, Principal at Wills Valley

1 Elementary School, Principal at Fort Payne High School, and  
2 Superintendent of Fort Payne City Schools; in 1990, he earned  
3 a Master's Degree in School Administration; in 1992, he earned  
4 an Education Specialist Degree in School Administration; and

5 WHEREAS, a man of selflessness, Superintendent  
6 Cunningham recently rewarded the school staff for going above  
7 and beyond during the COVID-19 pandemic with a one-time  
8 supplemental payment of \$1,250 for all regular and certified  
9 employees who worked during the 2020-2021 school year; and

10 WHEREAS, Superintendent Cunningham is a member of  
11 the Association of School Superintendents of Alabama, Alabama  
12 Education Association, Fort Payne Education Association, Fort  
13 Payne Kiwanis Club, Fort Payne Rotary Club, DeKalb County  
14 Sports Hall of Fame Board, DeKalb County Tourist Association,  
15 DeKalb County Library Board, Industrial Development Board of  
16 Fort Payne, the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce, and Fort Payne  
17 Church of Christ; and

18 WHEREAS, he and his wife, Bettina Cunningham, have  
19 one daughter, Cori Cunningham; and two stepdaughters, Casey  
20 Stiefel and Jess Bewley; and

21 WHEREAS, Superintendent Cunningham is indeed an  
22 inspiration, a leader, and a friend to many; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
24 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Fort Payne City Schools  
25 Superintendent Jim Cunningham is highly commended for  
26 dedicating 36 years to the school system, and this resolution  
27 hereby serves as a tribute to him with warmest appreciation

1 and admiration, along with sincere best wishes for continued  
2 happiness and success during his retirement.