



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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## **PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR JIM O'CONNOR**

Whereas Jim O'Connor was elected by the citizens of Oak Park on April 5, 2011 to serve on the District 97 Board of Education; and

Whereas Jim O'Connor's faithful service as a member and vice president of the board, as well as his lifelong commitment to learning, were instrumental in the recruitment and hiring of Superintendent Carol Kelley, and played a pivotal role in the adoption and implementation of a vision that is helping to provide every child we serve with access to an equitable and excellent education; and

Whereas Jim O'Connor's steadfast support of the district's investment in National Board Certification and the formation of the Pathways Committee have improved the quality of instruction for students and provided our staff with access to the highest level of professional development that is available; and

Whereas Jim O'Connor's fervent belief in the importance and benefits of the Illinois 5Essentials Survey resulted in the annual administration of the survey in all of our schools, which has provided us with valuable data that is helping improve the culture and climate in our buildings, strengthen our relationships with key stakeholders, and create an environment across the district where students feel known, nurtured and celebrated; and

Whereas Jim O'Connor participated in the successful negotiation of innovative and transformative collective bargaining agreements with the Oak Park Teachers' Association that have recognized and rewarded the hard work and tireless efforts of our teachers, promoted the long-term financial sustainability of our district and contributed to the continued success of our students; and

Whereas Jim O'Connor's advocacy for the increased use of data to guide and inform the decisions we make on a daily basis has had a profound and lasting impact on our work to foster the growth and more effectively measure the progress being made by our students both in and out of the classroom; and

Whereas Jim O'Connor proudly represented the board or served as a board liaison on several key committees, including the Facilities Advisory Committee, the Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention and Monitoring, the Calendar Committee, the Benefits Committee, the Oak Park Education Foundation and Success of All Youth; and

Whereas Jim O'Connor was an integral member of the boards that were recognized by the Illinois Association of School Boards in 2013 and 2015 for their hard work, excellence in the area of local school governance and tireless support of public education;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the District 97 Board of Education that it affirms the aforementioned accomplishments of Jim O'Connor; and

Be It Further Resolved that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Jim O'Connor for his exemplary leadership during his eight years as one its members.

Proclaimed on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019.