



PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR JIM GATES

Whereas Jim Gates was elected by the citizens of Oak Park to serve on the District 97 Board of Education on April 7, 2009; and

Whereas Jim Gates' faithful service as a member, vice president and president of the board played an integral role in the successful implementation of the International Baccalaureate and Project Lead the Way programs in our middle schools, the seamless transition to a new policy service provider and the effective rewrite of the district's policy manual, the improvement of the practices and protocols that guide the work of the board, and the adoption of a vision for the district that seeks to create a positive learning environment for all students that is equitable, inclusive and focused on the whole child; and

Whereas Jim Gates' strong commitment to fiscal stewardship contributed to the successful passage of referenda in 2011 and 2017 that have and will continue to aid the long-term viability of our schools and enhance the quality of the education that is available to the more than 6,000 children we serve; and

Whereas Jim Gates further fostered the district's reputation for academic excellence by helping lead the efforts to recruit and hire Dr. Carol Kelley and her predecessor Dr. Al Roberts, spearheading the development of the electronic superintendent's evaluation tool, and supporting projects, programs and initiatives that have promoted the growth and development of students and staff both in and out of the classroom; and

Whereas Jim Gates' fervent belief in the critical role that community involvement plays in the success of our schools led to the establishment of citizen-led committees such as the Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention and Monitoring (CLAIM) and the Committee for Community Engagement (CCE); and

Whereas Jim Gates' pursuit of opportunities to increase the board's engagement with residents and collaboration with other governing bodies resulted in the redesign of the board's website, the district's participation in events such as A Day in Our Village and the Farmers' Market, and his service as a board liaison to the Council of Governments, ED-RED, IGOV, PTO Council, the Oak Park Education Foundation and the Oak Park River Forest High School's Citizens' Council; and

Whereas Jim Gates participated in the successful negotiation of collective bargaining agreements with the district's four employee groups, including a transformative contract with the Oak Park Teachers' Association that is helping to shape the future of our schools and enabling our students to reach their full potential; and

Whereas Jim Gates' tireless dedication to board service was highlighted by his representation of the board at the Illinois Association of School Boards' State Delegates' Convention on an annual basis since 2009, his designation of Master Board Member that he earned in 2012 and has maintained over the past four years, his being a key member of the boards that earned the Illinois Association of School Boards' School Board Governance Recognition designation in 2013 and 2015, as well as an Award of Excellence from the Illinois State Board of Education in 2011, his representation on the board's policy committee, the board's self-evaluation and goal setting work team, the Facilities Advisory Committee, the CLAIM committee and the CCE, and his critical role in the creation and implementation of the process for conducting the board's self-evaluation on an annual basis;

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

Be It Further Resolved that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Jim Gates on behalf of the District 97 community for his exemplary leadership during his eight years as a member of the board.

Proclaimed on this 26th day of April 2017.