



PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR DENISE SACKS

Whereas Denise Sacks was elected by the citizens of Oak Park to serve on the District 97 Board of Education on April 5, 2011; and

Whereas Denise Sacks' dedicated service as a member of the board and strong commitment to helping students learn, grow and achieve were instrumental in the implementation of the International Baccalaureate and Project Lead the Way programs in our middle schools, the creation of collaborative agreements with the Park District of Oak Park regarding cooperative planning and the shared use of facilities, and the negotiation of innovative contracts with the Oak Park Teachers' Association and Service Employees International Union; and

Whereas Denise Sacks' expert leadership on the citizen-led Facilities Advisory Committee contributed to the success of several key projects (e.g., schoolyard upgrades, hiring a new district architect, undertaking a comprehensive temperature control pilot in our elementary schools, and the plan to construct a new administration building) that have greatly enhanced the long-term sustainability of the district's facilities and infrastructure; and

Whereas Denise Sacks' tireless advocacy on behalf of students with special needs advanced the goals of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, led to the establishment of the district's Accessibility Committee and helped vastly improve accessibility at several of our buildings; and

Whereas Denise Sacks displayed her steadfast belief in the importance of early childhood education by serving as the board liaison to the Collaboration for Early Childhood, aiding the Collaboration's efforts to establish an integrated early childhood system in Oak Park, and endorsing the district's participation in the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) pilot project, which is helping measure kindergarteners' skills and knowledge and inform educators about the learning and developmental needs of students in preschool through the early primary grades; and

Whereas Denise Sacks' hard work as a member of the district's policy review team, which included updating the practices, procedures and protocols that guide the day-to-day activities of the board, enabled the board to continue operating efficiently, effectively, and in the best interest of our schools and the children we serve; and

Whereas Denise Sacks strengthened the district's relationships with several of its community partners by serving as the board representative to organizations such as the Oak Park Education Foundation, PING and IGOV; and

Whereas Denise Sacks' support of the iLearn 97 initiative helped fulfill the district's referendum promise to increase the integration of technology in the classroom, while also ensuring that students have access to the resources they need to reach their full potential;

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

Be It Further Resolved that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Denise Sacks on behalf of the District 97 community for helping to build a better tomorrow for our students during her four years as a member of the board.

Proclaimed on this 5th day of May, 2015.