



PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR GRAHAM BRISBEN

Whereas Graham Brisben was elected by the citizens of Oak Park to serve on the District 97 Board of Education on April 9, 2013; and

Whereas Graham Brisben's passionate and dedicated service to the community as a member of the board played a pivotal role in the recruitment and hiring of Dr. Carol Kelley, the adoption and implementation of a vision that will enable the district to make meaningful progress toward addressing the opportunity gap, and the negotiation of an innovative and transformative contract with the Oak Park Teachers' Association that is supporting the district's long-term financial sustainability, rewarding the hard work of our exemplary faculty members, and aiding the success of our students both in and out of the classroom; and

Whereas Graham Brisben's expert guidance and leadership on the district's efforts to educate and inform people about the potential impact our two recent referenda would have on our students, schools and community contributed to the passage of both questions on April 4, 2017 and will help ensure that the children we serve continue to receive a high-quality education in modernized buildings that are safe, functional and accessible for all; and

Whereas Graham Brisben's commitment to fiscal stewardship led to the introduction of new systems and structures that have strengthened the district's overall financial practices, particularly around decisions that are made regarding capital expenditures; and

Whereas Graham's Brisben's strong belief in the importance of timely and effective two-way communication enhanced the district's relationships with its stakeholders and helped increase community engagement in the educational process; and

Whereas Graham Brisben proudly represented the board or served as a board liaison on several key committees, including the Oak Park River Forest High School Citizens' Council, the PTO Council, the Calendar Committee, the Benefits Committee, ED-RED, PING, IGOV and the Finance Oversight and Review Committee; and

Whereas Graham Brisben 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 Graham Brisben; and

Be It Further Resolved that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Graham Brisben on behalf of the District 97 community for helping our students learn, grow and achieve during his four years as a member of the board.

Proclaimed on this 26th day of April 2017.