



PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR PETER BARBER

Whereas Peter Barber was elected by the citizens of Oak Park to serve on the District 97 Board of Education on April 5, 2005; and

Whereas Peter Barber's faithful service as a member, vice president and president of the board resulted in the successful creation, adoption and implementation of the district's recent five-year strategic plan, the establishment of the citizen-led Community Input Team that led the strategic planning process, the implementation of the district's full-day kindergarten program in our elementary schools and the International Baccalaureate Program in our middle schools, and the improvement of processes and protocols that have enabled the board to work more efficiently and effectively; and

Whereas Peter Barber's commitment to sound fiscal management contributed to the successful passage of a referendum in April 2011 that has greatly enhanced the educational experience for our students and helped ensure the district's long-term financial stability; and

Whereas Peter Barber built on the academic excellence that is the hallmark of our schools by spearheading the district's efforts to recruit and hire Dr. Al Roberts as the superintendent, leading the development of the superintendent's evaluation tool, and aiding in the establishment of a higher level of accountability for student and staff achievement both inside and outside of the classroom; and

Whereas Peter Barber exhibited his fervent belief in the importance of shaping the future for our youngest learners by successfully bringing together District 97, District 200 and the Village of Oak Park to support the Collaboration for Early Childhood's vision of creating a comprehensive, integrated early childhood system in Oak Park; and

Whereas Peter Barber's encouragement to better utilize the community's vast talents and resources to assist the work of the board led to the establishment of citizen-led committees such as the Facilities Advisory Committee, the Committee for Collaborative Communication, and the Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention and Monitoring; and

Whereas Peter Barber's pursuit of opportunities to increase the board's engagement with residents and collaboration with other governing bodies resulted in the district holding board meetings in our schools on an annual basis, organizing tri-board meetings with districts 90 and 200, and participating in events such as A Day in Our Village; and

Whereas Peter Barber responded to all concerns brought to his attention by constituents, helped augment the district's collaborative partnerships with other government entities, strengthened the district's relationships with its internal and external stakeholders, and increased community engagement in the educational process; and

Whereas Peter Barber participated in the successful negotiation of collective bargaining agreements with the district's employee groups, including the Oak Park Teachers' Association; and

Whereas Peter Barber demonstrated his dedication to board service by attending conferences hosted by the Illinois Association of School Boards and additional workshops that resulted in his earning the designation of Master Board Member;

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

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

Proclaimed on this 7th day of May, 2013.