



PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR PETER TRACZYK

Whereas Peter Traczyk was elected by the citizens of Oak Park to serve on the District 97 Board of Education on April 17, 2007 and was re-elected for a second term on April 5, 2011; and

Whereas Peter Traczyk's hard work, passionate commitment to education and tireless advocacy on behalf of children had a profound and lasting impact on our schools and the students we serve; and

Whereas Peter Traczyk's fervent belief that Oak Parkers should have an active voice in shaping the future of the district led to the establishment of the Finance Oversight and Review Committee and the Facilities Advisory Committee—two standing board committees founded on the principles of citizen engagement and participation that have provided valuable guidance and expertise on the district's fiscal operations, financial investments, facilities management and capital improvements; and

Whereas Peter Traczyk's unparalleled leadership played a pivotal role in the successful passage of the referendum in April 2011, which has lessened the negative effect of state cuts on the district's finances and enabled us to invest in initiatives that have enhanced student learning; and

Whereas Peter Traczyk's wealth of knowledge and keen aptitude for negotiations, coupled with his pragmatism, dogged persistence and common sense approach to problem solving, were integral to the creation of innovative agreements with the Village of Oak Park, the Park District of Oak Park and District 200 that will benefit the long-term growth and development of our community, as well as a transformative teacher contract that will shape the future of our schools and help our students reach their full potential; and

Whereas Peter Traczyk's sincerity, integrity and collaborative spirit helped strengthen the district's relationships with our stakeholders, led to the establishment of positive and productive partnerships with the other local governing bodies, and earned him the honor of being the Wednesday Journal's Oak Park Villager of the Year for 2011; and

Whereas Peter Traczyk's sharp wit, infectious laugh and unforgettable smile made him a wonderful person to serve with, and an even better person to know; and

Whereas Peter Traczyk's kindness, generosity and compassion were priceless gifts he openly and willingly shared in the roles of public servant, mentor, coach, volunteer, neighbor, husband and father that he proudly assumed during the 18 years he lived in Oak Park; and

Whereas Peter Traczyk's noble words and deeds reflect a lifetime of dedicated service that was the hallmark of his proud and storied legacy;

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

Be It Further Resolved that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Peter Traczyk not only for the significant contributions and wonderful memories he provided during his eight years as a member of the board, but also for being a cherished friend and beloved colleague who we will hold in our hearts forever.

Proclaimed on this 19th day of February, 2015.