

2011-J9

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Forest Hills High School of Queens, New York, upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition by the City Department of Education

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate an enduring pursuit of excellence in the education of the youth of the Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Forest Hills High School of Queens, New York, upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition by the City Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Forest Hills High School was among the few large high schools, defined as those with a student population exceeding 2,500, throughout the city to receive an A grade on the Department of Education progress reports for two years in a row; and

WHEREAS, The progress report grades are based on student attendance rates, progress toward graduation, graduation rates and the results of parent, student and teacher surveys; and

WHEREAS, Forest Hills High School uses technology extensively in the classroom, including having a Smartboard in every room; another one of its major focuses is to help the struggling students at the school make a marked improvement; the school administrators, teachers and guidance counselors work together in a coordinated effort to help these students by forming inquiry teams; the school uses data to identify the lowest-performing 20 percent of students, and teachers offer them extra instruction, such as Saturday and evening tutoring; and

WHEREAS, Guidance professionals will also speak with the students for group counseling sessions, and Principal Saul Gootnick himself meets with the students once a week; using methods such as this, Forest Hills High School has raised its graduation rate from 78 to 86 percent over the last two years; and

WHEREAS, With an enrollment of about 3,900 students, Forest Hills High School has various academies, including a drama academy, which performs theatrical productions, a music academy and a public service academy, whose members engage in community volunteer work; and

WHEREAS, Ably led by Principal Saul Gootnick, Forest Hills High School continues to prosper today and into the future; and

WHEREAS, Forest Hills High School is proudly aware of its distinguished past, eager to fulfill its present commitment to parents, students and the community, and planning with vision and purpose for the ebb and swell of growth and change it will encounter in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Forest Hills High School of Queens, New York, upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition by the City Department of Education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Saul Gootnick, Principal, Forest Hills High School.