

2015-J1451

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Debra Jackson upon the occasion of her retirement as Superintendent of Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District after many years of distinguished service

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great State; and

WHEREAS, The result of many individual efforts, the excellence and the success of Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District is due in large part to the efforts of Debra Jackson; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Debra Jackson upon the occasion of her retirement as Superintendent of Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District after many years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, Debra Jackson earned a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts/Art History from Manhattanville College in 1976; she went on to earn her Master's degree in Administration, Policy and Urban Education in 1981, as well as a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Fordham University in 1990; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she holds School District Administrator Certification in New York and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, A true inspiration and mentor, Debra Jackson has served as the Superintendent of the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District for the past seven years; she officially retired from this esteemed position on Sunday, March 15, 2015; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure with the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District, Debra Jackson led more than 1,150 students, Pre-K through grade 12, including James L. O'Neill High School which

educates students from Fort Montgomery, Highland Falls, West Point and Garrison; and

WHEREAS, Debra Jackson was instrumental in the facilitation of a large voter approved construction bond for repairs and renovations as well as a United States Department of Education grant for a K-12 Innovation Project in Science and Technology; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she was the recipient of a Lounsbery Foundation grant for science and technology and a 21st Century Literacy Grant for economically disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as District Superintendent for the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District, Debra Jackson partnered with the Military Child Education Coalition to develop transition programs for military families; she also collaborated with West Point Military Academy and was the proud recipient of the 2011 Secretary of the Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation; and

WHEREAS, A caring, competent and committed leader, Debra Jackson's character and integrity are the hallmarks of her life and work as a school district leader, a community volunteer and as a person; her quiet approach and caring attitude creates confidence and loyalty among colleagues and friends alike; and

WHEREAS, Active within the community she so ably serves, Debra Jackson is a member of the National Superintendents Roundtable, the Mid-Hudson Study School Council Executive Committee, Suburban Schools Superintendents Association, NYSCOSS Education Assessment Advisory Committee and the Syracuse University Project Advance Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, The Highland Falls community is indeed fortunate and blessed to have such a dedicated and respected educational leader since 2008; her wisdom and contributions reached into every classroom, and she truly

made a difference in the lives of those lucky enough to have worked with her; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Debra Jackson has continually demonstrated an

impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District for the benefit of its faculty and students, as well as for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, In completing her service as a District Superintendent, Debra Jackson leaves behind more than mere bricks and mortar; she leaves behind a legacy to the residents of the community and to future generations of its students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Superintendent Debra Jackson upon the occasion of her retirement, and for her significant contributions to education in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Superintendent Debra Jackson.