



HR0876

LRB102 27982 LAW 39781 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Christine Zelenka, Ed.D.
4 on the occasion of her retirement as principal of John B.
5 Murphy Elementary School; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Zelenka is retiring after leading John B.
7 Murphy Elementary School for over 14 years, making her only
8 the eighth principal in the school's almost 100-year history
9 of serving the children of Irving Park; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Zelenka received her Bachelor of Arts in
11 Early Childhood Education & Teaching from the University of
12 Michigan; she received her Master of Education in Education
13 Leadership & Administration from National Louis University;
14 she earned her Doctor of Education in Urban Education
15 Leadership from the University of Illinois; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Zelenka began her distinguished career with
17 Chicago Public Schools as a classroom teacher at Onahan
18 Elementary School in 1988; she became assistant principal of
19 John B. Murphy Elementary School in 1997; she was selected to
20 become principal by the Local School Council in 2008; and

21 WHEREAS, During her tenure at John B. Murphy Elementary

1 School (Murphy), Dr. Zelenka has hosted developing resident
2 principals as they completed principal readiness training at
3 Chicago Public Schools, woven social and emotional learning
4 (SEL) into Murphy's school culture by sustaining a 25-year
5 practice of Responsive Classroom and close affiliation with
6 CASEL, championed the return of middle school and building out
7 of Pre-K programming to ensure that Murphy provides an
8 inspiring and encouraging learning environment for all
9 neighborhood children in grades Pre-K through 8th, led the
10 school's Fine & Performing Arts magnet cluster program to
11 ensure that all students experience the arts, and fostered
12 community and ritual as part of school-life through annual
13 traditions, including Career Day, the Spelling Bee,
14 Bike-Fix-It Day, Twins Day, History Fair, Clothes Swap, and
15 the Oceanarium; she also oversaw the recruitment and retention
16 of exceptional faculty in addition to the renovation of
17 Murphy's gymnasium, stage, and outdoor gardens; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Zelenka has not only devoted herself to the
19 development of John B. Murphy Elementary School's students but
20 also the parents and the community at large; she identified
21 and encouraged parent leaders to serve as advocates,
22 educators, and organizers within the school community; she
23 built relationships, hosted events, and provided resources to
24 community members and groups; more recently, she kept students
25 and the community safe throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,

1 school-reopening, and ongoing recovery response; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Zelenka has served on National Louis
3 University's Teacher Preparation Advisory Board for 8 years,
4 where she is a strong advocate for authentic and effective
5 teacher preparation that meets the needs of today's young
6 people, particularly in urban environments; she also served as
7 a first-year principal mentor for new principals at Chicago
8 Public Schools as they took on full administrative
9 responsibility while leading their new schools; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Zelenka has been noted for excelling as a
11 transparent, accessible, and empathetic communicator at all
12 times; she has also inspired generations of students,
13 families, and neighbors by modeling positivity, resilience,
14 and inclusion; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Zelenka and her husband, Rich, have two
16 children, Phil and Beth; her parents live in the neighborhood,
17 and she regularly cares for them and their interests;
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we congratulate Christine Zelenka, Ed.D., on her retirement as
22 principal of John B. Murphy Elementary School, thank her for

1 her dedication to the students and the community, and wish her
2 success in her future endeavors; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to Dr. Zelenka as an expression of our esteem and
5 respect.