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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, After 35 years in public education, with over half  
3 of that spent in school leadership roles, Wil Wagner is a man  
4 who has dedicated his life's work to the passionate and  
5 unfailing support of thousands of kids; and

6           WHEREAS, After working in several DuPage County high  
7 schools as a Dean, Wil Wagner was named Principal at West  
8 Leyden High School in 2004; and

9           WHEREAS, Wil Wagner's cultural experiences, combined with  
10 his school leadership tenures in the surrounding area, made him  
11 a leader within the Leyden educational community; and

12           WHEREAS, In 2006, Wil Wagner worked to install a freshmen  
13 mentoring program, ACCESS, which has improved the school  
14 culture and student leadership opportunities in the building; 2  
15 years later, he initiated a supportive program called "Guided  
16 Study" for all sophomores and juniors who received failing  
17 grades in core classes; and

18           WHEREAS, In 2010, Wil Wagner began another program for  
19 failing freshmen; unlike Guided Study, which was staffed by  
20 teachers, he and the administration facilitated the hour-long  
21 study program for freshmen after school; the success of the

1 program has been amazing, as the current rate of freshmen  
2 failing multiple classes is below 5%; both programs experienced  
3 transformative success and the number of students failing core  
4 classes at West Leyden has decreased in almost every year since  
5 their inception; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2012, the Leyden District became one of the  
7 first 3 districts nationwide to fully implement one to one  
8 computing with Google Chromebooks and Google Apps for  
9 Education; Wil Wagner has been a calming voice in this  
10 innovative transition, helping the school community integrate  
11 technology to enhance learning, but always keeping a focus on  
12 the best device for learning - the teachers; and

13 WHEREAS, Under Wil Wagner's leadership, Leyden was named  
14 the 2014 National AP School District of the Year by the College  
15 Board for raising enrollment and achievement in Advanced  
16 Placement classes, especially with minority and at-risk  
17 populations; and

18 WHEREAS, Wil Wagner has also committed to forming strong  
19 bonds with the school community; he has forged relationships  
20 with the students, parents, and stakeholders at West Leyden by  
21 bringing parents into the building through a variety of  
22 non-traditional interactions; he personally cooked pancake  
23 breakfasts for freshmen parents on Saturday mornings to

1 incentivize parents of struggling students to visit the school;  
2 he also sent buses into the community to pick up parents to  
3 bring them to teacher conferences and personally visits the  
4 homes of students who struggle to attend school; he is  
5 relentless in his pursuit of these connections that ultimately  
6 lead to greater chances for student success; and

7 WHEREAS, This past year, Wil Wagner organized a service  
8 trip to Mexico for 45 students; after he personally initiated a  
9 massive fundraising campaign, Leyden students worked at the  
10 "Casa Hogar" orphanage in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for a week  
11 last June; many students described the trip as "life-changing",  
12 and another service trip to Mexico is already underway; and

13 WHEREAS, Wil Wagner is a collaborative leader who has  
14 impacted the culture of learning for students and the quality  
15 of careers for educators; he commands the highest level of  
16 respect from teachers with his ethical decision making, his  
17 professional relationships, and a "dreamer's" mindset that  
18 anything is possible; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
20 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
21 recognize the accomplishments and dedication of Wil Wagner and  
22 his service as Principal of West Leyden High School in the City  
23 of Northlake; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we congratulate Wil Wagner on his many years  
2 of service and his retirement from the education profession;  
3 and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to Wil Wagner as a symbol of our esteem and respect.