

**RESOLUTION HONORING MARY ELLEN CARON
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, after almost three years of faithful and dedicated service, Mary Ellen Caron will resign from the Chicago Public Schools ("CPS"); and

WHEREAS, for nine years, Mary Ellen Caron served as an elementary school teacher and principal in schools on the west side of Chicago and Aurora, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Mary Ellen Caron founded Chicago's Frances Xavier Warde School and became its first Executive Director. Under her leadership, the school grew from a pilot program with two teachers and 35 children, to two campuses with 620 students and a staff of 85; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Mary Ellen Caron joined the Chicago Public Schools as Special Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer. In this capacity, she was an integral part in the opening of over ten new Chicago public schools; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Caron served as the CEO's liaison for ADA issues, working with the Mayor's Office of People with Disabilities and numerous CPS' departments to provide accessible facilities and programs for Chicago Public Schools' students, staff, and parents; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Caron collaborated with local leaders and community organizations to ensure that early childhood, alternative school, neighborhood school, and professional development resources and options were available to neighborhoods throughout the district; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Caron's commitment and tireless effort to improving the Chicago Public Schools will leave a lasting impact throughout our schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Caron is known as an educator, administrator, leader, innovator, and mentor who has selflessly served the cause of education and the children of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Caron leaves CPS to serve as Commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Children and Youth Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 24th day of March, 2004, do hereby extend to Mary Ellen Caron our thanks for her service and offer our most sincere gratitude for her contributions to the school system and the children of the City of Chicago.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be made available to Mary Ellen Caron.