

November 15, 2006

**RESOLUTION HONORING NANCY LAHO, CHIEF OFFICER,
OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, after thirty-six years of faithful and dedicated service, Nancy Laho will retire from the Chicago Public Schools ("CPS"); and

WHEREAS, Nancy Laho received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from University of Tampa and her Masters in Education from Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Laho began her career with the Chicago Public Schools in 1970 as classroom teacher at Mason Elementary School. After sixteen years as a third through sixth grade teacher, she became the Reading Improvement Program Administrator at Burley Elementary. In 1992, Nancy Laho accepted the position of Coordinator of Professional Development and Curriculum at Agassiz Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Nancy Laho became principal of Burley Elementary. Under her leadership, student reading achievement scores rose over 49 percent from 25.2% in 1994 to 74.4% in 2002 and student math achievement scores rose over 52 percent from 22.2% in 1994 to 74.4% in 2002; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Nancy Laho was appointed Area 6 Instruction Officer overseeing the educational and instructional needs of twenty four elementary schools on the city's near north side. In 2003, Nancy Laho was appointed as the inaugural Chief Officer of the Office of Principal Preparation and Development; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Officer, Nancy Laho was integral in the development of clear candidate qualifications, rigorous assessment processes and training for new principals. During her tenure, the district raised expectations for prospective principals, institutionalizing the role as an instructional leader. Additionally, as Chief Officer, she improved coherence and communication with local school councils and Area Instruction Offices to ensure that all stakeholders are educated and supported in their selection of high quality leaders for schools; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Laho has been recognized for her leadership in education with such awards as the Chicago Public Schools Principal of Excellence Award, International Reading Association Exemplary Reading Program Award for Illinois, and School Leadership Award for Outstanding Principals; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Laho is recognized as an educator, leader, mentor, innovator, and friend; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Laho's devotion, commitment and firm determination to improve the quality of education for countless Chicago Public Schools' students has been invaluable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 15th day of November, 2006, do hereby extend to Nancy Laho 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 Nancy Laho.