

June 25, 2008

**RESOLUTION HONORING GAIL D. WARD
CHIEF OFFICER, OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, after 38 years of faithful and dedicated service, Gail D. Ward is retiring from the Chicago Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Gail D. Ward received a Bachelor of Science and Masters in Education Degree from Loyola University; and

WHEREAS, Gail D. Ward began her career in 1970 as a teacher at Austin High School and was subsequently on staff at Prosser High School, Douglas Middle School and Walt Disney Magnet School; and

WHEREAS, Gail D. Ward was the Chicago Director for Project Read from 1990-1996; and

WHEREAS, Gail D. Ward served as the Principal of Agassiz Elementary School from 1993-1999; and

WHEREAS, Gail D. Ward served as the founding Principal of the Walter Payton College Prep High School from 1999-2006. During her tenure, Payton College Prep was first in the State of Illinois in mathematics for four consecutive years and second in the state for overall student achievement; and

WHEREAS, since 2006 Gail D. Ward has served as the Chief Officer in the Office of Principal Preparation and Development. As the Chief Officer, Gail D. Ward was responsible for the support and development of an unprecedented 171 new principals for the 2007-2008 year, the largest cohort of new principals in the history of the district. The OPPD Coaching Model includes a network of Leadership Coaches, Rapid Response Team Specialists, and a leadership curriculum delivered through the Chicago Academy for New Principals which has received high praise from new principals. The Chicago Model has become an exemplar for the State of Illinois and is held up as a "best in class" system of support for early career principals in many places across the country; and

WHEREAS, Gail D. Ward is recognized as an inspiring leader in the field of education, valued mentor and respected advocate for principals, teachers and students; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Public Schools will miss her leadership and the dedication she has provided to the principals, teachers, students and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the President and Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 25th day of June, 2008, do hereby extend to Gail D. Ward our thanks and appreciation for her services and offer our most sincere gratitude for her contributions to the Chicago Public Schools and the children of the City of Chicago. May she enjoy a most deserved retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be made available to Gail D. Ward.