

**RESOLUTION HONORING BARBARA EASON-WATKINS, ED. D
CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

WHEREAS, Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins will retire from the Chicago Public Schools on June 30, 2010 after 35 years of faithful and dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eason-Watkins received a Bachelor's Degree with honors in Elementary Education from the University of Michigan, a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Chicago State University, and a Doctorate in Education, with a specialty in Curriculum and Instruction, from Loyola University Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eason-Watkins' career at Chicago Public Schools began as the Principal of Mollison Elementary School where she served from 1985 until 1988; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eason-Watkins also served as the Principal at McCosh Elementary School (known today as Emmett Till Math & Science Elementary) from 1988 until 2001, and during her leadership at that school students meeting national norms increased 33% in math and 51% in reading. And in 2001, while Dr. Eason-Watkins was principal, McCosh had one of the highest ISAT scores among schools with more than 95% of the students eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

WHEREAS, Dr. Eason-Watkins was appointed Chief Education Officer of the Chicago Public Schools in 2001 by the Chief Executive Officer, Arne Duncan and has continued in that role for the past nine years; and

WHEREAS, as the lead curriculum and instruction strategist for the third largest school district in the nation, Dr. Eason-Watkins has led efforts to reform policies and institute key initiatives to diminish the lingering achievement gap including more focused attention on early childhood and comprehensive supports for turnaround schools; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Eason-Watkins' leadership the district has garnered a catalogue of accomplishments, which include: largest award recipient in the nation for a \$24.5 million literacy grant sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education; increasing the number of National Board Certified Teachers at CPS from 73 in 2001 to 1494 in 2009; increasing the number of students with access to and taking Advanced Placement courses; sustaining expanded learning opportunities for pre-school through 12th grade students despite budget constraints; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eason-Watkins has received numerous awards for her continued commitment to education including: the Whitman Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership in 1989; CPS Principal of Excellence Award in 1990 & 1995; Phi Delta Kappa Educator of the Year in 1995; CPS Principal Leadership Award in 1997; the Telly Award for the Virtual Pre-K Project in 2002; the Pastor's Network Keeper of the Dream Award in 2002; Chicago Teachers College/Chicago State University Alumni Association Award Winner: Excellence in Education in 2004; Loyola University Chicago Founders' Dinner Award Recipient: Damen Award in 2004; Tsunami Foundation Storm Award in 2004; Recognition as the Most Powerful Woman in Education by the Chicago Sun-Times in 2004; Co-Author of the Highly Successful Publication, "On Common Ground: The Power of Professional Learning Communities" ; Kathy Osterman Award Winner: Outstanding Executive Employee in 2007; and, the Niagara Peace & Dialogue Award Winner: Education Award in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eason-Watkins has spent her entire 35-year professional career working with schools, students, teachers, parents, community organizations and members to improve the quality of public education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and Members of the Chicago Board of Education, gathered here this 26th day of May, 2010, do hereby extend to Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins our thanks for her faithful services and offer our most sincere gratitude for her contributions to the Chicago Public Schools and the children of the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be made available to Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins.