

**RESOLUTION HONORING DR. RICHARD G. SMITH  
CHIEF OFFICER, SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORTS**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Richard G. Smith was appointed Chief Officer for Office of Special Education and Supports of the Chicago Public Schools in 2010 by the Chief Executive Officer, Ron Huberman and has continued in that role for the past two years;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Richard G. Smith has led the District's special education and related services programs which annually serve approximately 50,000 children, aged birth to age 22, each school year;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Richard G. Smith received a Bachelor's Degree from Northern Illinois University, a Master's Degree in Education from National Lewis University and a Doctorate of Education Degree from Northern Illinois University;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Richard G. Smith has addressed the educational needs of Chicago's children for 33 years and children with special needs for over 40 years. Since 1979, he has been a strong advocate for the equal access and educational rights of students with disabilities beginning his career with the Chicago Public Schools as a school psychologist, then as a Principal of the Fredrick Stock School for 19 years, and a Chief Area Officer for one year;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Richard G. Smith was the first Principal in the Chicago Public Schools to implement a state funded preschool to fully include students with disabilities which forever changed the landscape of early learning and instructional programming for students with disabilities in the city of Chicago;

**WHEREAS**, as the lead special education strategist for the third largest school district in the nation, Dr. Richard G. Smith has led efforts to: (1) guide schools in the selection, implementation and evaluation of high-yield literacy interventions for students with disabilities (2) improve communication and quality collaborations with parents and community agencies (3) launch an integrated trans-disciplinary team model of related service delivery (4) redesign transition supports and services for students with disabilities resulting in increased funding;

**WHEREAS**, under Dr. Richard G. Smith's leadership the district has garnered over 70 million dollars in revenue to support health related services for students with disabilities;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Richard G. Smith has served as an Assistant Professor (adjunct) in the Department of Special Education at Northern Illinois University, served as a lead trainer for Systemic Change in Special Education for School Principals at Indiana University, and served as a consultant/trainer for special education programs in the Bermuda Islands.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Richard G. Smith has received awards for his life-long commitment to special education including: The Outstanding Principal Leadership Award;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Richard G. Smith has served on numerous boards that further special education including: the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education – Executive Board, The Mayors Early Childhood Task Force, The Attorney Generals' Task Force on Special Education, The Illinois Special Education Funding Task Force, The Kohl-McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Awards Selection Committee, The Advisory Committee of the Department of Special Education and Northeastern Illinois; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the President and Members of the Chicago Board of Education, gathered here this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012, do hereby extend to Dr. Richard G. Smith our thanks for his remarkable service and offer our most sincere gratitude for his 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. Richard G. Smith.