

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 204

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. L. Gail Garrett upon her retirement as principal of Mary McLeod Bethune Middle School and Math Science Magnet in Los Angeles, California.

WHEREAS, Gail Garrett earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology with a minor in mathematics from the University of California at Los Angeles, a master of arts degree in education administration from California State University of Dominguez Hills, and a doctorate degree in institutional management from Pepperdine University; at Pepperdine, Dr. Garret was an adjunct professor of education, a research assistant specializing in school finance, and a teaching assistant for curriculum and methodologies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Garrett's career began in 1980 as a math teacher at Locke High School in Los Angeles; ever concerned for the total well being of students under her tutelage, Dr. Garrett also served as a sponsor of the drill team, Pep Club, cheerleaders, senior classes, Black Student Union, PUSH for Excellence, and was a student body advisor; and

WHEREAS, in March 1999, Dr. Garrett was promoted to assistant principal at Locke High School and was responsible for attendance, athletics, community relations, and student activities; in August, Dr. Garrett was called to Leuzinger High School in Lawndale, California, with responsibilities as an associate principal over the instructional program, the master schedule, attendance, registration, testing, discipline, athletics, and plant and facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Dr. Garrett returned to Locke High School as its principal, where she worked for two years; in 2004, she became principal of Peary Middle and Magnet School; from 2012 to 2015, Dr. Garrett was an instructional director at the district and state levels; she also served as principal of Sepulveda Middle and Magnet School for one year before being named principal of Mary McLeod Bethune Middle School and Math Science Magnet in July 2016; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Dr. Garrett sought to improve schools under her administration; she demonstrably increased graduation and culmination rates, helped schools to receive six-year accreditations, met mandates to remove a school from state audit status and program improvement directives, successfully reorganized schools and implemented stronger instructional programs, and transitioned a school from a four-track year-round calendar to a traditional school with construction and Zone of Choice options; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Garrett is the recipient of the Council of Black Administrators Diane E. Watson Award and the Los Angeles Unified School District/County Teacher of the Year Award and has been recognized by several organizations for her community service; she is a member of the Los Angeles Unified School District advisory boards for professional development, finance, and positive behavior support; she served as president of the Council of Black Administrators and Middle School Principals; she was a Region 16 representative of the Association of California Administrators; and she was selected as a mentor administrator from hundreds of applicants in the Los Angeles Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Garrett's parents are residents of Louisiana House District No. 11, and she has made significant contributions to their community; and

WHEREAS, for almost forty years, Dr. L. Gail Garrett has been an educator, mentor, and administrator; her enduring message to her students is: "Remember ... if no one told you they love you today, Dr. Garrett loves you!"; and upon her retirement as principal of Mary McLeod Bethune Middle School and Math Science Magnet, it is appropriate to recognize and honor her outstanding career in education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. L. Gail Garrett upon her retirement after thirty-nine and a half years of educational excellence; does hereby record for posterity the advancements she has made in her career and the many accolades she has earned; and does hereby offer best thoughts and wishes for a happy, healthy, and long retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. L. Gail Garrett.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES