

2010 -- S 2338

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CONGRATULATING AND HONORING THE ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, STAFF,
AND STUDENTS OF NORTH SMITHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, Cote, and P Fogarty

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, "The future," in the wise words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "belongs to those who
2 believe in the beauty of their dreams." It was first a dream, but it soon became the mission of the
3 School Department of the Town of North Smithfield to develop an approach that would inspire
4 middle school students to find the very best in themselves and to make the most of that discovery;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, North Smithfield Middle School's leaders and teachers decided that being
7 "run of the mill" was not where their students deserved to be; and

8 WHEREAS, The changes began in earnest with the opening of the brand new North
9 Smithfield Middle School in the fall of 2008. The school is comprised of grades 6 through 8 and
10 in 2008 had an enrollment of 456 students; and

11 WHEREAS, "High expectations" became much more than a catch phrase. It became the
12 life force behind every action at North Smithfield Middle School and ignited a spark that has now
13 shone a spotlight on the incredible success that the elevated philosophy produced; and

14 WHEREAS, In one year's time, the school's test scores soared 20 percentage points in
15 reading, the largest improvement in the state, and more than 9 percentage points in math, placing
16 the school in the top quarter of Rhode Island's middle schools in that subject; and

17 WHEREAS, Led by Principal John Lahar, Assistant-Principal Clare Arnold, and backed
18 wholeheartedly by a staff of forty dedicated teachers, the students at North Smithfield Middle
19 School, who were challenged by rigorous academic challenges on every level and in every

1 course, made strides and accomplished goals that by all standards are truly remarkable; now,
2 therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
4 hereby recognizes and congratulates the students, teachers, support staff, and administrators of
5 North Smithfield Middle School who achieved successes that very few people would have even
6 dared to imagine as they demonstrated what “high expectations” can achieve. We furthermore
7 wish them continued success in reshaping the educational experience for Rhode Island’s young
8 people; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Principal John Lahar, North Smithfield Middle
11 School.

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