

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 426

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Jesse Register, Director of Schools for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize, particularly on the occasion of their retirement, those outstanding school administrators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest-quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding individual is Dr. Jesse Register, who will take a much-deserved retirement on June 30, 2015, from Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, where he has served as Director of Schools since 2009; and

WHEREAS, a champion of education who deeply believes that all children can learn and that we should expect great things out of them, Dr. Jesse Register holds a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received his doctorate in education from Duke University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Register began his illustrious education career in North Carolina, where he first served as an English teacher. He would later serve as Superintendent of two school systems in that state, Cabarrus County Schools and Iredell-Statesville Schools; and

WHEREAS, from 1997 to 2006, Dr. Jesse Register served as Director of Schools for Hamilton County Schools in Chattanooga, during which time the school system was consolidated. During his career, he has helped merge school systems on two different occasions; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Dr. Jesse Register assumed the position of Director of Schools for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, a diverse urban district serving students from 140

nations who speak almost as many languages. The district has 157 schools, including nineteen charter schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Register brought a wealth of experience and professionalism while sharing his vast knowledge and sage insights with his colleagues, teachers, and students of the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools system, the nation's 41st largest school district, with more than 84,000 students; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Dr. Register led the transformation of the school system by moving the district from being threatened with state takeover due to low performance to the second highest achievement category in 2013, placing it in the top third of Tennessee school districts; and

WHEREAS, other improvements during his tenure include the adoption of an academic framework for measuring school progress that is more stringent and comprehensive than state measurements; the initiation of changes that completely overhauled the district's business practices to make service to schools more efficient and to ensure good standing with the federal government; and the addition of opportunities for success for the district's youngest and oldest students through expanded early learning and high school programs; and

WHEREAS, in August 2013, the Nashville Board of Education unanimously approved a strategic plan, Education 2018: Excellence for Every Student, which set ambitious goals for the district, with the aim of becoming the nation's top-performing urban school district; and

WHEREAS, respected by his peers, Dr. Register was a key advocate for Tennessee's successful \$500 million Race to the Top application and now continues his advocacy for pre-kindergarten education, immigration reform to better serve students, and support for the Common Core State Standards in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honor and accolades, Dr. Register received the 2014 Impact Award from the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, the 2011 Orgullo Hispano "Amigo We Love" Award from Conexion Americas, the 2011 Apollo Award for Communications Leadership from the Nashville Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, the United Way Pillar Award in 2010 and 2013, and the Community Health Charities Shining Star Award 2008–2009; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Register also shared in the national recognition received by the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Board of Education when it was named the 2014 recipient of the CUBE Award for Urban School Board Excellence from the Council of Urban Boards of Education; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Jesse Register has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of students, parents, teachers, and the school board alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby extend to Dr. Jesse Register our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applaud his dedication to the students of Tennessee, and wish him much happiness and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.