

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 20

By Lollar

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. David Stephens on being selected as the 2017 Tennessee Superintendent of the Year.

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

WHEREAS, Bartlett City Schools Superintendent Dr. David Stephens is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stephens was recently selected as the 2017 Superintendent of the Year by the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS), an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as the Superintendent of Bartlett City Schools, as it recognizes the positive influence he has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, each year, TOSS selects and honors a Tennessee Superintendent of the Year who embodies the following attributes: Leadership for Learning—creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in his or her school system; Communication—strength in both personal and organizational communication; Professionalism—constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, while providing professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the education team; and Community Involvement—active participation in local community activities and an understanding of regional, national, and international issues; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of winning this prestigious award, Dr. Stephens will now represent Tennessee in the National Superintendent of the Year Award Program; the American

Association of School Administrators (AASA) and Servicemaster sponsor the National Superintendent of the Year Award Program and present the award each year at the AASA National Conference on Education; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, David Stephens graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Memphis; he later received his master's degree in educational leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University and his doctoral degree in educational leadership and policy from his alma mater the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, throughout his twenty-nine-year career in education, Dr. Stephens has been committed to educating and advocating for students in West Tennessee, serving them in various roles from the classroom to central office; and

WHEREAS, before gaining his current position as Superintendent of Bartlett City Schools, Dr. Stephens began his career in education as a classroom teacher in 1987; thereafter, he proved himself an invaluable leader and advanced accordingly, serving as Assistant Principal and then Vice Principal at Milligan Central High School, Principal at Bolton High School, and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and later Deputy Superintendent at Shelby County Schools; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at Shelby County Schools, David Stephens chaired the district's accreditation teaching and learning committee and was selected to help oversee, plan, and manage the merger of Memphis City Schools and Shelby County Schools, creating the largest school district in the State; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Dr. Stephens was entrusted with the challenging task of bringing to life a newly created school district; under his experienced leadership, Bartlett City Schools emerged as an invaluable educational institution and a pillar of the community; and

WHEREAS, ever committed to professional excellence, Dr. Stephens has served as a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Association for School Curriculum Development, AdvanceEd Tennessee Council, TN Core Leadership Council, and Leadership Memphis's Memphis Talent Dividend Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, David Stephens shares his many successes with his wife, Cheri, and their two children; and

WHEREAS, an extremely talented and compassionate administrator, Dr. Stephens works assiduously to foster an environment in which students can reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stephens is an inspiration to his colleagues, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, David Stephens epitomizes the dedicated professional who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized on this auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Dr. David Stephens on being selected as the 2017 Tennessee Superintendent of the Year by the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, commend his exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best 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.