

2013-J2760

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Gary D. Bixhorn upon the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of dedicated service in education

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders, whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Gary D. Bixhorn upon the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of dedicated service in education; and

WHEREAS, Gary D. Bixhorn is the Chief Operating Officer of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES, the state's largest educational service agency; the BOCES provides shared support and educational services to over 70 school districts on Long Island, as well as special education and career education to over 4,000 school age students and over 6,000 adult students on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Since 1992, Gary D. Bixhorn has served in numerous administrative positions within the BOCES, including District Superintendent/Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, As an Eastern Suffolk BOCES Executive, Gary D. Bixhorn has cultivated a culture that features stakeholder involvement, strategic planning, and a strong control environment; his strategic planning has enabled Eastern Suffolk BOCES to become the first educational service agency to be accredited by the Middle States Association; and

WHEREAS, Gary D. Bixhorn is frequently called upon at the regional and state level, to share his expertise in school finance, legislative affairs, and regional services; with 35 years of expertise as an educational administrator in Suffolk County, he is a valuable resource to local school districts, educational organizations, elected officials, and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, Widely credited for playing a key role in strengthening the link between Long Island's educational and business communities, Gary D. Bixhorn has been a strong leader in building coalitions to advocate for Long Island schools; he is the author of articles and position papers addressing current issues including, regional demographics and functional consolidation of school services; and

WHEREAS, Gary D. Bixhorn co-authored the 1996 report, LONG ISLAND EDUCATION: COST AND OUTCOMES, that was prepared in conjunction with the Long Island Association, and refocused the discussion of education on Long Island; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Gary D. Bixhorn coordinated the development of the School Property Tax Reform Act proposal on behalf of the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association (SCSSA), and the Long Island Education Coalition (LIEC); and

WHEREAS, In addition, he coordinated the development of the SCSSA's Task Force Report entitled, TASK FORCE ON REGIONAL STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE SCHOOL EFFICIENCY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS; the report became the basis of discussions between the SCSSA and the Suffolk County Executive's Office, leading to a new collaboration between the schools and county government; and

WHEREAS, Gary D. Bixhorn is a past president and currently serves as the Legislative Chairperson of the SCSSA, as well as Chairperson of the Federal Legislation Committee of the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS); and

WHEREAS, Educators like Gary D. Bixhorn provide a tremendous service

to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of young people in their educational journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, Gary D. Bixhorn has clearly had an enduring impact on the youth of Eastern Suffolk BOCES, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his impressive dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals who work to support our proud tradition of public education by providing their skills and talents to our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Gary D. Bixhorn upon the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of dedicated service in education, and for his significant contributions to education in New York State; and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gary D. Bixhorn.