

2013-J5485

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Susan A. Agruso, Ph.D., upon the occasion of her retirement as Superintendent of the Kings Park Central School District after 40 distinguished years 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 Susan A. Agruso, Ph.D., upon the occasion of her retirement as Superintendent of the Kings Park Central School District after 40 distinguished years in education; she will officially step down from her position on July 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Susan A. Agruso began her illustrious tenure as Superintendent of the Kings Park Central School District in July 2008; this dedicated educator's many accomplishments in this role include improving student performance on state assessments and Advanced Placement tests through focus on mastery; implementing a special education inclusion program in primary schools and high school as well as full day kindergarten; partnering with a grass roots organization, Kings Park in the kNOW, to bring attention to drug and alcohol problems and focus on prevention; and redesigning the district's curriculum to incorporate the Common Core Standards, align to state standards, and spiral across the grades; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining the Kings Park Central School District, Susan A. Agruso was Superintendent of Schools for the South Country Central School District, where, in a two-year time period, she improved state scores in Reading in four grades and in Mathematics in five grades; implemented restructuring plans in the middle school and high school to improve performance and to ensure that high performing students receive advanced courses while also meeting the needs of low performing students; and recruited an outstanding team of central office administrators; and

WHEREAS, Susan A. Agruso has brought to her leadership role her strong background in assessment; she was the South Carolina, State Department of Education's Director of the Office of Authentic Assessment from May 1994 to January 1995, as well as Director of the Office of Assessment from January 1995 to December 1999; in addition, she worked in Charlotte, North Carolina's Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools as Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Accountability, and then Assistant Superintendent for Assessment, Planning, and Technical Support until June 2006; and

WHEREAS, Susan A. Agruso began her career in education in the State of New York; she was a Physics and Earth Science Teacher at East Islip High School, Islip Terrace, New York from September 1974 to August 1985, and then she took in the challenge of making a difference at a statewide level, serving the New York State Education Department as Associate in Science in the Bureau of Science Education for eight years, and then as Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment Services from January 1993 to May 1994; and

WHEREAS, She received her education training in New York State as well, earning a Bachelor of Science in Physics from New York Institute

of Technology, Old Westbury, in 1973, a Master of Arts in Education from Stony Brook University, SUNY, in 1976, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from SUNY, University at Albany, in 1994; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, this talented educator was the recipient of a New York State-level Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching, and the New York State Nominee to the Teacher in Space Program; in addition, she has received the Science Teachers Association of New York State Service Award, the New York State Section/American Association of Physics Teachers Service Award, and the CMS Quality Excellence Award; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Susan A. Agruso 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, Susan A. Agruso has clearly had an enduring impact on the youth of the Kings Park Central School District, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for her 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 Susan A. Agruso, Ph. D., upon the occasion of her retirement as Superintendent of the Kings Park Central School District after 40 years of dedicated service in education, and for her significant contributions to education in New York State; and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Susan A. Agruso, Ph.D.