

## 2013-J5707

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Michelle Marino upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service to the Huntington Union Free School District

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Michelle Marino upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service to the Huntington Union Free School District; this momentous occasion will be celebrated with a Retirement Party in her honor on Friday, June 20, 2014, at Crestwood Manor, Northport, New York; and

WHEREAS, The result of many individual efforts, the excellence and the success of Southdown Primary School is due in large part to the efforts of Michelle Marino; and

WHEREAS, A true inspiration and mentor, Michelle Marino served the Huntington Union Free School District for more than three decades; she will officially retire from Southdown Primary School at the end of the current school year; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Marino has been with Southdown Primary School since 2003; a longtime member of Huntington's educational team, she came to the district in 1982, and has 20 years of teaching experience; and

WHEREAS, Known for her boundless energy and enthusiasm, Michelle Marino is an articulate advocate for Southdown's students and programs, and is highly regarded throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, A 1979 graduate of Long Island University C.W. Post College, Michelle Marino holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art Education; she earned a Master of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1989 from

Dowling College, where she also obtained certification in School Administration in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Michelle Marino is certified to teach nursery school through sixth grade, Kindergarten through 12 Art, and English-as-a-second language (ESL); and

WHEREAS, During the 1994-95 school year, Michelle Marino served as Principal of the Woodhull Early Childhood Center at a time when the site housed the district's entire Kindergarten population; she has also worked as Director of the Discovery program at the Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts in Wheatley Heights where she launched a unique hands-on early childhood program with an emphasis on music, art and dance for primary level students; and

WHEREAS, As a teacher, Michelle Marino was sought after by both students and their parents; the Huntington Foundation awarded her a grant for the development of a student facilitated habitat house, and she has also been a nominee for the prestigious Disney Teacher of the Year Award as well as for the New York State Better Beginnings Award; and

WHEREAS, With Michelle Marino's leadership and a determined group of teachers and parents, Southdown Primary School won the International Alliance for Invitational Education's prestigious Inviting Schools Award in 2010; she garnered the Huntington Foundation's Spirit Award in 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Huntington community is indeed fortunate and blessed to have such a dedicated and respected educational leader for more than three decades; her wisdom and contributions reached into every classroom, and she truly made a difference in the lives of those lucky enough to have worked with her; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Marino has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at the

Huntington Union Free School District for the benefit of its faculty and students, as well as for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, In completing her service as a teacher, Michelle Marino leaves behind more than mere bricks and mortar; she leaves behind a legacy to the residents of the Huntington community and to future generations of its students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Michelle Marino upon the occasion of her retirement, and for her significant contributions to education in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Michelle Marino.