

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 24, 2021

RESOLUTION HONORING JAMES L. O'BRIEN, SUPERINTENDENT DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS, GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, James L. O'Brien was born in New Bedford in July 1943, to Joseph and Ida O'Brien; he is married to Pauline and they have two daughters, Katelyn and Lauren; and

WHEREAS, James L. O'Brien graduated from Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School in 1982, graduated from SMU in 1986, and received a Master's Degree from Fitchburg State University in 1991; and

WHEREAS, James L. O'Brien began his career in education as a Substitute Teacher, Teaching Assistant and Baseball Coach in 1982, then, from 1986 to 1989 was a Mathematics Instructor and Football Coach; and

WHEREAS, James L. O'Brien spent years as a Class Advisor and Summer Related Instructor, helping students to achieve passing scores in math and science projects, and working evenings as Director of the Education and Math Pilot Program, where he helped students increase their mathematical scores on average of fourteen points per student; and

WHEREAS, Working as a Related Electrical Instructor from 1989 to 1997, James L. O'Brien, provided quality education in related-math, science and electrical code; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, James L. O'Brien was appointed Student Activities and School Services Director, where he was responsible for all student activities and field trips, oversaw all student fund-raising programs, implemented safety measures protecting students, teacher equipment, materials and faculty, organized and monitored the after-school professional development programs, workshops for staff and faculty and assisted the Principal in coordinating commencement ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, James L. O'Brien managed all phases of the budget process related to student activities and adult education, interviewed candidates for teaching positions and advisors for school services, evaluated teacher performance in the adult program and assisted teachers, monitored the development, implementation, revision and evaluation of curriculum, supporting faculty as needed; and

WHEREAS, From 2007 through 2015, James L. O'Brien served as Assistant Principal/Dean of Student Affairs, monitoring freshman students' performance through grades and evaluations, cycle reports and administrative agreements, served as the liaison between the school and parents, the courts, community agencies and police authorities, he also administered discipline to all freshman students by applying rules and regulations as determined by the School Committee and Administration; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, James L. O'Brien was appointed Superintendent Director of Schools, overseeing the school he had graduated from as a teenager; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his exemplary career as an educator, James L. O'Brien is a member of the Narragansett Boy Scout Council, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Mass Hire Youth Council Board, Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and was recently honored as Prince Henry Society Man of the Year:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors **JAMES L. O'BRIEN, SUPERINTENDENT DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS, GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**, thanks him for his many decades of dedication to education and to his students and wishes him much happiness in all future endeavors.

Offered by:

Linda M. Morad, Councillor at Large

Joseph P. Lopes, City Council President

Naomi R. A. Carney, Councillor at Large

Maria E. Giesta, Councillor Ward Two