

2023 -- H 6458

LC003094

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING FORMER SUPERINTENDENT OF PAWTUCKET PUBLIC SCHOOLS DR. CHERYL MCWILLIAMS ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN AND THE CITY OF PAWTUCKET

Introduced By: Representatives Felix, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Alzate, Stewart, Kazarian, Shallcross Smith, Cruz, Messier, and Ajello

Date Introduced: May 30, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Cheryl McWilliams was born in Pawtucket and lived in the City for more  
2 than sixty years before moving to Seekonk. She attended Pawtucket public schools (as did her  
3 children) and graduated from Tolman High School. Ms. McWilliams attained a Bachelor's degree  
4 in Music from Rhode Island College in 1981, a Masters of Education in Music degree from  
5 Rhode Island College in 1997, received her Certificate in Educational Administration from  
6 Providence College's Continuing Education Program, and attained her Doctor of Education  
7 degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Northeastern University in 2011; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. McWilliams began her distinguished education career in 1995, serving  
9 as a substitute teacher with the Pawtucket School Department. She then attained a permanent  
10 position with the Department as a music teacher, which she held for ten years, during which time  
11 she brought the science, beauty and joy of music into children's lives, often introducing them to  
12 music genres they had never before heard; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2007, Dr. McWilliams began the administrative part of her career,  
14 serving as the Principal of Potter Burns Elementary School for ten years. Thanks to her superb  
15 leadership skills and tireless work ethic, she was elevated to the position of Assistant  
16 Superintendent of Pawtucket Public Schools; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2019, Dr. McWilliams was named as the Interim Superintendent, and in  
18 February of 2020, was named Superintendent, a post she held until February of 2023. She was

1 admired for her visionary leadership, innovative approaches to education, and the strength and  
2 determination she brought to work every day, fighting to ensure that every Pawtucket public  
3 school student received a quality education and equal access to the American dream; and

4 WHEREAS, Since March of 2023, Dr. McWilliams has served as the Continuous  
5 Improvement Facilitator and Coach for the Center for Leadership and Educational Equity. Her  
6 daily focus is on ensuring equitable outcomes for all students, securing meaningful professional  
7 development opportunities for educators, and bringing people together to achieve common goals;  
8 now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
10 honors and congratulates Dr. Cheryl McWilliams on her retirement as Superintendent of the  
11 Pawtucket School Department, after more than twenty-five years of dedicated and distinguished  
12 service to the children and City of Pawtucket; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. Cheryl McWilliams.

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