

2024 -- H 8328

LC006230

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING MILISSA O'NEIL ON BEING SELECTED AS THE 2024-2025 RHODE ISLAND "TEACHER OF THE YEAR"

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Solomon, Vella-Wilkinson, Shanley, Bennett, McNamara, Casey, Chippendale, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: June 04, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, "The future," in the wise words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "belongs to those who
2 believe in the beauty of their dreams." Milissa O'Neil, an elementary and special educator at
3 Oakland Beach Elementary School, inspires her students to envision the possibilities, to have
4 confidence in themselves and their abilities, and to believe in a future full of promise; and

5 WHEREAS, For her joyous dedication to her students and education, Ms. O'Neil has
6 been named Rhode Island's 2024-2025 "Teacher of the Year". This recognition is a momentous
7 tribute to an exceptional individual who has had a significant and profound impact on the lives of
8 her students; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. O'Neil attained her Bachelor's degree in Education from Wheelock
10 College and Early Childhood Special Education certifications from Rhode Island College and
11 Providence College. She also holds a PreK-2 Early Childhood Certification from the Community
12 College of Rhode Island; and

13 WHEREAS, Twenty years ago, Ms. O'Neil began her career in education as an early
14 childhood educator before joining Warwick Public Schools fulltime in 2014, as an elementary
15 and special educator. Over the past six years, she has taught kindergarten at Oakland Beach
16 Elementary School; and

17 WHEREAS, A true and proven champion of education, in addition to her classroom
18 teaching Ms. O'Neil has been an advocate for STEAM education, is a member of the RIDE
19 STEAM Advisory Board, serves as a Teacher Leader within GEMS-Net, serves on the executive

1 committee of the Oakland Beach Parent Teachers Organization, is chairperson of the Oakland
2 Beach Green Team, and serves students through the Learn365 program at the Warwick Boys and
3 Girls Club; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. O'Neil has been lauded as "a strong advocate for social emotional
5 learning, cultivating an atmosphere she and her students fondly call a "school family," where each
6 member assumes a pivotal role in both learning and classroom management"; and

7 WHEREAS, Ms. O'Neil's genuine love of teaching has not only helped hundreds of
8 children to succeed, but has earned her the praise and admiration of her peers and has certainly
9 qualified her as one of the "best of the best" in the State. Her dedication and expertise have been
10 tremendous assets to the entire school community and have wholly distinguished her as a person
11 worthy of our praise and admiration; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
13 congratulates Milissa O'Neil on the prestigious honor of being named the 2024-2025 Rhode
14 Island "Teacher of the Year." We moreover wish her the very best of health and happiness in all
15 her future endeavors; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Milissa O'Neil.

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