

BY: Senator THOMAS

CONGRATULATING Dr. Deborah L. Wortham upon the occasion of receiving the Superintendent Award at the National Conference of the American Association of School Administrators

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 the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Dr. Deborah L. Wortham upon the occasion of receiving the Superintendent Award at the National Conference of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) which was held February 15-17, 2024, in San Diego, California; and

WHEREAS, The AASA School Superintendent's Association is comprised of more than 13,000 educational leaders across the globe; its mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to equitable access to the highest quality public education for all students; and

WHEREAS, The National Conference on Education is regarded as the most comprehensive professional learning and networking event for school superintendents and administrators; about 3,000 superintendents come together to form connections, share ideas, and hear from education thought leaders on improving student outcomes and district performance; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Deborah L. Wortham was awarded the highest honor a superintendent can receive at the 2024 Women in School Leadership Awards, hosted by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) School Superintendent's Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Deborah L. Wortham, superintendent of the Roosevelt Union Free School District in Long Island, New York, was awarded based on her creativity in successfully meeting the needs of her Roosevelt students, strength in both personal and organizational communication, consistent improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, the professional development opportunities she affords to her staff, and her active participation in the Roosevelt community; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, Dr. Deborah L. Wortham began her second tenure with the Roosevelt School District and worked with the Board of Education and a team of about 100 staff, students, and community members to create a five-year strategic plan to improve students' performance; and

WHEREAS, These efforts proved a great success with Roosevelt Middle

School and Roosevelt High School being removed from the State's needs-improvement list- a direct result of the superintendent's able leadership, ultimately ranking all five Roosevelt schools in good standing; and

WHEREAS, State assessment performance increased over the past two years, and graduation rates rose from 70 percent in 2018-2019 to 86 percent in 2021-2022; furthermore, the 2023 graduating class earned \$4.8 million in scholarships, a 23 percent increase from the total earned by the 2022 graduating class, all of which have justly earned Dr. Deborah L. Wortham this esteemed award and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Deborah L. Wortham has clearly had an enduring impact on the youth of the Roosevelt Union Free School District, as well as on the community and State at large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for her impressive dedication to others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Dr. Deborah L. Wortham upon the occasion of receiving the Superintendent Award at the National Conference of the American Association of School Administrators; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Deborah L. Wortham.