

BY: Senator OBERACKER

COMMENDING Megan and Clayton Kappauf upon the occasion of being named the 2023 Teachers of the Year by New York Agriculture in the Classroom

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant accomplishments in the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders, whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Megan and Clayton Kappauf upon the occasion of being named the 2023 Teachers of the Year by New York Agriculture in the Classroom; and

WHEREAS, Each year, New York Agriculture in the Classroom recognizes an exceptional teacher, or teachers, who embody a passion for teaching through a lens of agriculture in their curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Megan and Clayton Kappauf will be representing New York Agriculture in the Classroom as model educators who incorporate agriculture as a context for learning in their pre-kindergarten and STEAM classrooms in Oxford, New York; and

WHEREAS, Educators at Oxford Primary School, the Kappaufs have created a unique classroom environment where students are actively engaged in authentic and hands-on learning through integrating food and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to captivating their students, Megan and Clayton Kappauf have three aeroponic tower gardens which serve as a tool for a real-world approach to reinforce core academic content in math, science, English, social studies, and art; and

WHEREAS, During the school year, Clayton's third grade students help Megan's kindergarten students germinate the seeds for their tower garden, and the third grade students monitor and maintain the tower gardens; by late fall the tower gardens begin to produce crops ready for harvest, including a bounty of basil; and

WHEREAS, Using the students' curiosity about basil as a teachable moment, the class learned how to make their own mozzarella cheese and were able to make a student-made snack of caprese salad; and

WHEREAS, The tower gardens were a gateway to several collaborative and cross-curricular projects; as plants began to flower the need for

pollination arose; students learned about the role the bees and insects play in pollination and then learned how to pollinate their plants on the tower garden; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, motivated by the ability to grow their own food, under the able leadership of Megan and Clayton Kappauf, students designed and built their own greenhouse; they also grew flowers to cheer up their campus, as well as peas and lettuce that could be eaten during the summer reading and math program; and

WHEREAS, The future success of our State and Nation is dependent upon individuals such as Megan and Clayton Kappauf, who dedicate their lives as educators, nurturing our most precious resource, our youth; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Megan and Clayton Kappauf provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of young people in their educational journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, Significant contributors to education in New York State, Megan and Clayton Kappauf clearly have an enduring impact on the youth of Oxford Primary School, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merit recognition and applause for their impressive dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, Throughout their careers thus far, Megan and Clayton Kappauf have brought an uncompromising standard of excellence to their work and a warm sense of caring and concern to every young person they educate; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals who work to support our proud tradition of public education by providing their skills and talents to our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Megan and Clayton Kappauf upon the occasion of being named the 2023 Teachers of the Year by New York Agriculture in the Classroom, and to wish them continued success in all their future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Megan and Clayton Kappauf.