

BY: Senator O'MARA

CONGRATULATING Superintendent Stephen Parker Zielinski upon the occasion of his retirement after more than three decades of devoted service to the South Seneca Central School District and to public education in New York State

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those educators within our midst who have devoted their careers to the service of others, nurturing the growth and development of countless young people in this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Superintendent Stephen Parker Zielinski upon the occasion of his retirement after more than three decades of devoted service to the South Seneca Central School District and to public education in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Stephen Parker Zielinski officially retired on March 7, 2025, after more than 31 years of outstanding service to the South Seneca Central School District, culminating in over a decade as its Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, A proud graduate of Cornell University, Stephen Parker Zielinski began his career in education with South Seneca as a substitute teacher, later joining the Middle School Team as a science teacher from 1995 to 2002, and then as a math teacher from 2002 to 2009, all while earning his master's degree from the State University of New York at Cortland; and

WHEREAS, Known for his collegial spirit and deep commitment to student development, Stephen Parker Zielinski also shared his lifelong love of sports with students as coach of the Junior Varsity and Varsity Baseball teams and as the Bowling team coach, bringing insights from his own experience as an Ivy League athlete; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, Stephen Parker Zielinski transitioned to school leadership, serving as Middle School Principal until 2012, where he provided strong guidance to students and faculty and helped shape a culture of academic and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, As a respected educational leader beyond his district, Stephen Parker Zielinski served with distinction in the New York State Middle School Association in numerous roles including Middle School Liaison, Regional Director, Annual State Conference Co-Chair, Vice President, and ultimately President, where he was widely recognized for championing middle-level education and advancing the State Education Department's Essential Elements for Standards-Focused Middle Level Schools and Programs; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Stephen Parker Zielinski was appointed Principal of both the Middle and High Schools, further broadening his influence and impact within the district, and later played a leading role in the merger study with the Romulus Central School District-demonstrating his readiness for district-level leadership; and

WHEREAS, Upon the retirement of his predecessor in 2013, Stephen Parker Zielinski was unanimously selected by the South Seneca Board of Education to serve as Superintendent of Schools, a role in which he distinguished himself for over a decade; and

WHEREAS, Under his leadership, the South Seneca Central School District saw the successful completion of two Capital Projects, including the construction of a new, state-of-the-art athletic stadium and a modern transportation facility; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Superintendent Stephen Parker Zielinski provided steady, compassionate leadership as he guided the district through unprecedented challenges, developing new instructional models and ensuring the continued education and well-being of South Seneca's students; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Stephen Parker Zielinski has exemplified fairness, open-mindedness, and a collaborative leadership style; he has been a tireless advocate for South Seneca at the local, regional, and state levels, always placing students at the center of every decision; and

WHEREAS, After over three decades of dedicated service, Superintendent Stephen Parker Zielinski now looks forward to retirement-pursuing lifelong passions such as supporting the Buffalo Bills and the Chicago White Sox, and fulfilling a dream of visiting every Major League Baseball stadium; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his extraordinary contributions, the new transportation facility currently under construction will be named the Stephen Parker Zielinski Transportation Facility, ensuring his legacy will live on for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Stephen Parker Zielinski's enduring legacy is reflected in the lives of the countless students, educators, and community members he has inspired through his wisdom, humility, and unwavering commitment to excellence in education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend and congratulate Superintendent Stephen Parker Zielinski upon the occasion of his well-deserved retirement, to honor his decades of distinguished service to the students, faculty, and families of the South Seneca Central School District, and to extend to him best wishes for continued health and happiness in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be

transmitted to Superintendent Stephen Parker Zielinski.