

**BY:** M. of A. Bronson

**COMMENDING** Dr. Kenneth Graham upon the occasion of his retirement after almost 20 years of dedicated service to the Rush-Henrietta Central School District

**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,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones 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,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Dr. Kenneth Graham upon the occasion of his retirement after almost 20 years of dedicated service to the Rush-Henrietta Central School District of Henrietta, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** For 40 years, Dr. Kenneth Graham has served as an educator; in 1999, he joined the Rush-Henrietta Central School District; the longest-serving school superintendent in Monroe County, he will officially retire in July of 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his tenure, Dr. Kenneth Graham has never stopped looking for ways to make the District a better place for students to learn; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Kenneth Graham led the school district through three major facilities improvements projects which included a new transportation and operations center; significant renovations to the junior high schools and Senior High School, including numerous athletics fields; and the replacement of a dilapidated administration building; and

**WHEREAS,** Under Dr. Kenneth Graham's luminous leadership, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District implemented its successful small-class-size initiative; at the elementary level, the average class size in grades Kindergarten through third grade is 15 students, offering more personalized instructional time for each child; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Kenneth Graham also helped the district become a leader in the use of instructional technology in the classroom, and demonstrated great leadership on behalf of students with disabilities, championing an inclusion movement which allowed more students to be educated in their home district; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, Dr. Kenneth Graham was an early advocate for

standards-based education in Rush-Henrietta, urging the district to articulate clearly what it expects students to know and be able to do; overseeing the creation of curriculum maps and common learning assessments that are still used and updated today; and becoming more proactive in monitoring student progress to ensure timely academic intervention; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Kenneth Graham also assisted Rush-Henrietta to institute Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which calls on staff members to teach students about desired character traits, acknowledge students who demonstrate these aspects of good citizenship, and reteach students about these expectations when their choices and conduct require it; and

**WHEREAS,** During the last four years, Dr. Kenneth Graham devoted his time and energy to a comprehensive reconfiguration plan for the school district, which was enacted in September of 2017; as part of this agenda, he advocated for the Board of Education's Full-Day Kindergarten and Enrollment Management Proposal; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his outstanding career as an educator, Dr. Kenneth Graham has truly strived to develop learning environments in which all students can thrive; he has coupled high expectations with rich opportunities, making innovation, improvement, and success for all children a public school reality; and

**WHEREAS,** Kenneth Graham's loyalty to the district and to his staff is truly admirable; all who have had the privilege to work with him through the years have known him to be an honest and hard-working administrator who always made the needs and concerns of his students his top priority; and

**WHEREAS,** The driving force behind Dr. Kenneth Graham's commitment to public education is his belief that all children have the potential to do great things if given the opportunity; he prides himself on creating an educational environment where students come first and expectations are high; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Dr. Kenneth Graham upon the occasion of his retirement after almost 20 years of dedicated service to the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Kenneth Graham.