

**BY:** M. of A. Barclay

**HONORING** Mary Beth Fierro upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2017 New York State Middle School Principal of the Year Award by the School Administrators Association of New York State

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor and recognize those dedicated individuals, who strive to enhance the quality of education for our students, and whose accomplishments, character, and community commitment inspire all citizens of 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 honor Mary Beth Fierro upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2017 New York State Middle School Principal of the Year Award by the School Administrators Association of New York State, celebrated on Friday, May 5, 2017, at the Century House in Latham, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** The School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS), which represents nearly 7,200 school administrators, supervisors, and coordinators in the State of New York, is committed to providing direction, service and support to its members; and

**WHEREAS,** The New York State Middle School Principal of the Year Award is given annually to a member of SAANYS who has set the pace, character and quality of education for the children in his or her school; and

**WHEREAS,** Upon graduation from SUNY Oswego with her Bachelor of Science degree, Master of Science degree and certificate of advanced studies, Mary Beth Fierro began her distinguished career in education; and

**WHEREAS,** An educator of more than 30 years, Mary Beth Fierro has held the esteemed position of Principal of Oswego Middle School for six years; in this capacity, she has worked diligently to lift up the school from School in Need of Improvement (SINI) status from the State Education Department to a flourishing school with a shared vision for all students and staff; and

**WHEREAS,** Under her luminous leadership, Oswego Middle School has seen a 64% reduction of disciplinary referrals in the last five years, a direct result of a careful review of discipline data, and proactively implementing measures such as faculty and staff professional development on working with at-risk students, and introducing a strong character program within the school; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Beth Fierro has also implemented several mentor programs for students at the middle school including the Mentor-Scholar program, where at-risk students are paired with a mentor from SUNY

Oswego School of Education, working one-on-one with their mentee twice per week after school and the Mentor STEM program centered on forensics and robotics, which provide supplemental programming to highly interested students; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, Mary Beth Fierro enacted the Standards Based Online Learning Program (PLATO) Learning Lab, which enables students to work at their own pace while benefitting from personalized instruction from a dedicated classroom teacher; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Beth Fierro's commitment to excellence for all students is evident in her leadership and love for Oswego Middle School; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to now record its recognition and appreciation in honoring an outstanding educational leader, whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in her students; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mary Beth Fierro upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2017 New York State Middle School Principal of the Year Award by the School Administrators Association of New York State; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mary Beth Fierro.