

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2021

RECOGNIZING and honoring Superintendent Laura Mitchell for her leadership in advancing Cincinnati Public Schools and the school district's positive impact on students.

WHEREAS, Ms. Mitchell is a Cincinnati native who matriculated through both Bond Hill Academy and the School for Creative and Performing Arts; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mitchell's passion to serve through education motivated her to earn a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Bennett College, a master's degree in Education Administration from the University of Cincinnati, and a superintendent certification from Xavier University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mitchell began her teaching career as an elementary teacher at Central Fairmount Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mitchell later served Westwood School as both an assistant principal and principal, where she was awarded the 2002 Milken Educator Award which honors early-to-mid career educators for their impressive achievements and the promise of future accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mitchell served as Cincinnati Public School's (CPS) Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer from 2005 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, as Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, Ms. Mitchell implemented major academic improvement strategies including the Elementary Initiative, which raised achievement in sixteen of CPS's lowest-performing elementary schools and the "My Tomorrow" initiative, which provides college and career readiness instruction; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mitchell was appointed in 2017 to be Superintendent of CPS by the CPS Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, during Ms. Mitchell's tenure as Superintendent, the district achieved many accomplishments including: an increase in enrollment from 64.3% to 68.5% of the school-age population, the opening of seven new schools, the distinction of being the only urban district in Ohio to be rated "Effective," the strengthening of neighborhood schools with the Vision 2020 initiative, and a community-designed three-year strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mitchell's resignation as Superintendent, effective June 11, 2021, was accepted by the Board of Education on May 10, 2021; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Ms. Laura Mitchell for her service to the City of Cincinnati and contributions to Cincinnati Public Schools.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and a copy be provided to Ms. Laura Mitchell by the Council Office of Councilmember Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney.

Passed: _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney