

Resolution

Whereas, Ruth Veales served with distinction on the Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS) Board of Education for twelve years, elected by the voters to serve three, four-year terms representing the students, families, staff and citizens residing in District 5, from February, 2010, through April, 2022; and,

Whereas, Ms. Veales faithfully served as a member of the Board's Budget and Finance and Academics Committees and as the first and longest serving Chairperson of the Board's Student Experience & Equity Committee and represented OKCPS as a member of the John Rex Charter Elementary School Board of Directors; and,

Whereas, Ms. Veales represented OKCPS, for several years, on the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE), which is a national committee that represents over 100 urban school districts and over nine million urban students and was elected by CUBE members to serve on its Steering Committee; and,

Whereas, Ms. Veales made significant contributions to the Board's efforts to update and improve the district's anti-discrimination policy and annually in drafting the Board's resolution honoring Black History Month; and,

Whereas, Ms. Veales enthusiastically joined her colleagues in support of the Board's decision to rename schools previously named after confederate generals; and,

Whereas, Ms. Veales wholeheartedly supported the naming of the district's new administrative building, opened in June, 2020, as the Clara Luper Center for Educational Services and the Board's resolution memorializing this historic action honoring Ms. Luper; and,

Whereas, Ms. Veales is a self-proclaimed advocate for children, referring to it as "a calling on her life." Throughout many years of community service she has worked as staff, volunteer, and parent support in multiple youth organizations, including the Young Black Men/Black Women Association; the National Urban League Incentive to Excel and Succeed; at Star Spencer High School in the Booster Club, Gospel Music Choir, and Drama Department; and in her church as vacation bible school and youth bible study teacher, alternate youth pastor; and as a foster parent for therapeutic foster children; and,

Whereas, Ms. Veales has also served in numerous leadership roles on boards and church ministries including programs serving seniors, youth, prison reform, and grandparents raising grandchildren; and,

Whereas, throughout her tenure on the OKCPS Board, Ms. Veales was an unwavering advocate for "equity in education" and for students and families of color in the district to receive resources and opportunities in an equitable manner, was instrumental in the development of the Board's Equity Policy (A-08), and placed great importance on the community, parents, and students being given opportunities to provide input when the Board was considering decisions that impacted them.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Oklahoma City Public Schools Board of Education, take great pride in recognizing and honoring Ms. Ruth Veales for her many years of dedicated service on this Board and her steadfast commitment to providing the highest quality, equitable education possible to the children in this school district.

Dated this 7th Day of March, 2022.

Paula Lewis, Board Chair

Mark Mann, Vice Chair & District 4 Board Member

Carole Thompson, District 1 Board Member

Lori Bowman, District 2 Board Member

Carrie Coppermoll Jacobs, District 3 Board Member

Gloria Torres, District 6 Board Member

Meg McElhaney, District 7 Board Member