**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MICHAEL WAIKSNIS, PRINCIPAL OF SULLIVAN MIDDLE SCHOOL IN ROCK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT THREE OF YORK COUNTY, ON BEING NAMED 2014 MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Michael Waiksnis, principal of Sullivan Middle School in Rock Hill School District Three of York County, has been named 2014 Middle School Principal of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators; and

Whereas, Dr. Waiksnis’ faculty, students, and administrative colleagues are in no way surprised by this recognition, as he is an exemplar of those qualities that make a superb educator and administrator: leadership, ability to motivate, and a collaborative style, to all of which he also brings energy and enthusiasm; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, Michael Waiksnis earned a bachelor’s degree in social science at Florida Atlantic University, followed by a master’s degree in educational leadership from the same institution. Recently, he received his doctor of education in educational leadership from Gardner‑Webb University in North Carolina; and

Whereas, Dr. Waiksnis took up his duties as Sullivan Middle School’s principal in 2008. Prior to that time, he had served as an assistant principal for several years, most recently at Castle Heights Middle School. He also has five years’ experience as a teacher; and

Whereas, part of what makes Dr. Waiksnis an effective principal is his strong effort to build relationships with Sullivan’s nine hundred students, most of whom he greets daily. It is an axiom with him that students “have to know you care about them”; and

Whereas, respected as an unusually imaginative, involved, energetic, and dedicated school leader, Dr. Waiksnis is never afraid to try something new and encourages the same creative thinking in those he leads. For example, under his leadership Sullivan used a $575,000 grant in 2012 to launch an after‑school and summer program called The Zone to teach students how to be entrepreneurs. Students learned the basics of designing, marketing, and selling products and how to run a business. In addition, Sullivan’s parents and students were eager to start a soccer program in 2011, but the school district had no money to spare. Therefore, to raise the $3,300 needed to launch the program, organizers sought out partners in the community to donate money or equipment, and the school’s soccer program was born; and

Whereas, Superintendent John Taylor of the Rock Hill Schools praises Dr. Waiksnis, saying of him that he “has distinguished himself as an outstanding administrative leader who provides a high‑quality learning environment with high expectations for his students [and] staff and for himself”; and

Whereas, grateful for his dedication, the members of the House of Representatives take great pleasure in adding their collective voice to the well‑deserved chorus of congratulations being showered on Michael Waiksnis, newly named 2014 Middle School Principal of the Year for South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Michael Waiksnis, principal of Sullivan Middle School in Rock Hill School District Three of York County, on being named 2014 Middle School Principal of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Michael Waiksnis.

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