

PROCLAMATION

JOHN HODGE DAY

May 17, 2022

WHEREAS, we are here today to extend special recognition to John Hodge and to honor him for his exemplary 31 years of service to District 97, where he has impacted the lives of thousands of students, particularly in the last 18 years, from 2004 to 2022, when he served as principal of Washington Irving Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, during his time at Irving, John has worked with the PTO and surrounding community on many improvements and activities at the school, including his immediate support for the Learning Community Initiative (LCI), an effort to increase parent involvement at Irving and close the achievement gap among students that began in 2003, and an eight-year journey to raise funds and win hard-fought approval to replace the school's all-blacktop play area with a rubberized-ground, accessible playground and an artificial turf field in 2013, which has resulted in a lot fewer skinned knees at recess; and

WHEREAS, John has led Washington Irving Elementary and its staff as they received many recognitions during his tenure, including being named a 2020 Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion School, receiving a 2020 Nora Project Award for addressing ability inclusion and social change, and serving as a 2020 Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Conference site visit location, offering professional development sessions for school administrators and staff from across the country; and

WHEREAS, John has also been personally recognized for his excellence, receiving an Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel Award of Excellence as an administrator in 2022 and a 2022 Staszak Outstanding Educator Award from the Oak Park Education Foundation; and

WHEREAS, John's visionary leadership and tireless pursuit of success for each student will have a lasting impact on the culture at Washington Irving and the lives of so many students, faculty, staff, and families in Oak Park and beyond; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation is presented to John to serve as a reminder that, although he is retiring at the end of this school year, he will always be remembered as an innovative leader whose kindness, humor, professionalism, and advocacy for teachers and students alike have set the bar for transformative education in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park, along with the Board of Trustees and the citizens of Oak Park, do hereby proclaim May 17, 2022, to be John Hodge Day in the Village of Oak Park. We thank John for his dedication to the wellbeing of the youngest members of our community for the past 31 years during his tenure in District 97, and our best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

DATED this 16th day of May, 2022

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk