

By: Bolton

H.R. No. 994

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Meria Carstarphen has been selected to serve as  
2 superintendent of the Austin Independent School District, and with  
3 her appointment, she becomes the first woman and first African  
4 American to hold that office; and

5           WHEREAS, Dr. Carstarphen has led the St. Paul Public Schools,  
6 the second-largest school district in Minnesota, since 2006; during  
7 her tenure there, she has worked to address declining enrollment,  
8 achievement gaps between racial and ethnic groups, and the  
9 financial needs of the district; her energy and enthusiasm,  
10 together with a collaborative work style, are credited with helping  
11 the district meet challenges that previously looked insoluble; and

12           WHEREAS, Before moving to St. Paul, Dr. Carstarphen served as  
13 the chief accountability officer for the District of Columbia  
14 Public Schools, executive director for comprehensive school  
15 improvement and accountability in Kingsport, Tennessee, and  
16 special assistant to the superintendent in Columbus, Ohio; she  
17 began her career as a middle-school Spanish and documentary  
18 photography teacher in Selma, Alabama, and she has also worked in  
19 elementary education in Spain and Venezuela; and

20           WHEREAS, A Selma native, Dr. Carstarphen earned a bachelor's  
21 degree from Tulane University, master's degrees from Auburn  
22 University and Harvard University, and a doctorate in  
23 administration, planning and social policy, with a concentration in  
24 urban superintendency, from Harvard; she has also studied at the

1 University of Seville, in Spain, and the University of Innsbruck,  
2 in Austria; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to her involvement with numerous civic  
4 organizations, Dr. Carstarphen currently serves on the Educational  
5 Testing Service Board of Trustees, the Council of the Great City  
6 Schools Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and the  
7 Minnesota Association of School Administrators Board of Directors;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Austin is indeed fortunate to have an individual of  
10 Dr. Carstarphen's talent and dedication to lead its public schools,  
11 and it is a privilege to welcome her to the Lone Star State; now,  
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
14 Legislature hereby honor Dr. Meria Carstarphen on her selection as  
15 superintendent of the Austin Independent School District and extend  
16 to her sincere best wishes for continued success in her new post;  
17 and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for Dr. Carstarphen as an expression of high regard by the  
20 Texas House of Representatives.