

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 609

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the Galena Park Independent School District in paying tribute to Dr. Shirley J. Williamson, former Texas Commissioner of Education, on the occasion of the dedication of the Dr. Shirley J. Williamson Elementary School, which is being named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, Shirley J. Williamson has spent much of her life involved in the Galena Park Independent School District as a student, teacher, administrator, and superintendent; she began her education at Pyburn Elementary School in 1954 and graduated from Galena Park High School in 1966; and

WHEREAS, After earning a degree at the University of Houston, she began her career as a first grade teacher in the Pasadena Independent School District in 1971, but her emotional ties to Galena Park had her returning to the school district in 1975 as a teacher for MacArthur Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Williamson's leadership skills were evident, and she was soon taking on administrative responsibilities; she became assistant principal in 1977 and principal of MacArthur Elementary School in 1979; she was named principal at Green Valley Elementary School in 1984 and director of elementary education for the district in 1986; she became assistant superintendent for pupil services in 1992 and the district's first female superintendent in 1995; and

WHEREAS, She was known then as Dr. Shirley J. Neeley, and her contagious energy and enthusiasm, combined with an unrelenting

desire to ensure that every student in the Galena Park Independent School District achieved his or her highest potential, led the district to unprecedented academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, The naming of the Dr. Shirley J. Williamson Elementary School is a tribute to one of Galena Park's most esteemed educational leaders and an expression of the gratitude of its citizens for her hard work, her commitment, and her perseverance in the pursuit of educational excellence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby commend Dr. Shirley J. Williamson for her many contributions to education in this state and extend to her congratulations on being honored by the Galena Park Independent School District; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Gallegos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 14, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate