

By: Burkett

H.R. No. 1115

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Valerie Nelson of Walter L. Wilkinson Middle School
2 has been chosen by the Mesquite Independent School District Council
3 of PTAs as the 2010-2011 Secondary School Principal of the Year; and

4 WHEREAS, An educator for nearly two decades, Mrs. Nelson has
5 served as principal of Wilkinson Middle for three years, and in that
6 brief time she has significantly enhanced student performance; when
7 she arrived, the school was deemed "Acceptable" by the Texas
8 Education Agency and served a population reported to be more than 70
9 percent economically disadvantaged; Mrs. Nelson worked closely
10 with faculty and staff to create a positive vision for the school
11 and its students, and by 2010, Wilkinson Middle had earned
12 "Recognized" status and was rated as exemplary in all but one
13 subject; and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Nelson is a graduate of Grambling State
15 University in Louisiana, earning her bachelor's and master's
16 degrees in education in 1992 and 1995; she began her career in 1992
17 as a remedial reading and math teacher and subsequently taught
18 first grade; she came to Texas in 1995 to work in Mesquite schools;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, For five years, she taught first and third grades at
21 Jay Thompson Elementary School while also completing a degree in
22 management at Texas A&M University--Commerce; in 2000, Mrs. Nelson
23 received the Mesquite ISD's highest honor when she was named an
24 Apple Corps teacher; soon thereafter, she became assistant

1 principal at Elsie Shands and J. C. Austin Elementary Schools,
2 dividing her time between the campuses for a year and then
3 continuing on at J. C. Austin Elementary through 2004, when she was
4 named principal of Mary L. Moss Elementary School; during her
5 tenure there, the school earned "Recognized" status for three
6 consecutive years; she has served in her current post at Wilkinson
7 Middle School since 2008; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Nelson has contributed to her professional
9 community through her membership in the Association for Supervision
10 and Curriculum Development, the Texas Association of Secondary
11 School Principals, and the Mesquite Education Association; she is
12 also active in the NAACP and the Dallas Alumnae chapter of Delta
13 Sigma Theta, Inc., and she serves as a leader of Troop No. 2923 of
14 the Girl Scouts of America; she has further distinguished herself
15 as a codirector of the children's ministry at the Mesquite
16 Friendship Baptist Church; and

17 WHEREAS, In all of her endeavors, Mrs. Nelson enjoys the love
18 and support of her husband of 14 years, Barrett, and she takes great
19 pride in their two children, Kyla and Khari; and

20 WHEREAS, The commitment to excellence that Valerie Nelson has
21 brought to her efforts at Wilkinson Middle School has inspired
22 faculty, staff, and students alike, and she is helping many young
23 Texans to acquire the skills they will need to build fulfilling and
24 productive lives; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
26 Legislature hereby congratulate Valerie Nelson on her selection as
27 the 2010-2011 Secondary School Principal of the Year by the

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1 Mesquite Independent School District Council of PTAs and extend to
2 her sincere best wishes for continued success with her important
3 work; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Mrs. Nelson as an expression of high regard by the
6 Texas House of Representatives.