

By: Meyer

H.R. No. 2443

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Dawson Orr is stepping down as superintendent of  
2 the Highland Park Independent School District on August 31, 2015,  
3 having guided the district through a period of significant change  
4 and growth; and

5           WHEREAS, A veteran school superintendent when he took the  
6 helm of the Highland Park ISD in 2009, Dr. Orr has furthered the  
7 district's reputation for strong academics while navigating  
8 funding challenges and overseeing a 12 percent increase in  
9 enrollment; in the 2013-2014 school year, Highland Park ISD and all  
10 seven of its campuses received the accountability rating "Met  
11 Standard" with distinctions, the highest level assigned by the  
12 Texas Education Agency; and

13           WHEREAS, This esteemed administrator began his career in 1975  
14 in Columbus, Georgia, where he served successively as a social  
15 studies teacher and as assistant principal at Baker High School; he  
16 then relocated to Veracruz, Mexico, to serve as a teacher and as  
17 elementary principal and subsequently as superintendent at the  
18 American School of Laguna Verde; after returning to Texas, he spent  
19 15 years with the Pampa ISD as assistant superintendent and as  
20 superintendent before becoming superintendent of the Wichita Falls  
21 ISD in 2003; and

22           WHEREAS, Highly respected in his field, Dr. Orr has served as  
23 president of the Texas Association of School Administrators, as  
24 chair of the association's legislative committee, and as president

1 of the Texas Leadership Center Board, as well as co-chair of the  
2 Texas High Performance Schools Consortium; named Superintendent of  
3 the Year in 2008 by Communities in Schools, he was selected as Key  
4 Communicator of the Year by the Texas School Public Relations  
5 Association in 2005; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to his extensive efforts in the arena of  
7 public education, Dr. Orr has given generously of his time and  
8 talents in behalf of his community as a member of the University  
9 Park Library Advisory Committee, the Park Cities Rotary Club, and  
10 the Education Impact Committee of the United Way of Metropolitan  
11 Dallas; he will remain in the Park Cities to take on new  
12 responsibilities at Southern Methodist University as a professor  
13 and as chair of the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership  
14 in the Simmons School of Education and Human Development; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Orr is a graduate of the University of Alabama,  
16 where he earned his bachelor's degree in public administration and  
17 social studies in 1975; he returned to the school to complete a  
18 master's degree in administration and planning and an additional  
19 master's degree as an educational specialist, and he went on to  
20 attain his doctorate in the Cooperative Superintendency Program at  
21 The University of Texas; and

22 WHEREAS, Throughout his distinguished tenure with the  
23 Highland Park ISD, Dr. Dawson Orr has advanced the tradition of  
24 excellence that is synonymous with that district, and Highland Park  
25 students, faculty, and staff are indeed fortunate to have benefited  
26 from his vision and leadership; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas

1 Legislature hereby honor Dr. Dawson Orr for his exceptional  
2 accomplishments as superintendent of the Highland Park Independent  
3 School District and extend to him sincere best wishes as he embarks  
4 on the next exciting chapter of his career; and, be it further

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