

2009-J6556

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending P.S. 172 Beacon School of Excellence upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition

WHEREAS, P.S. 172 Beacon School of Excellence has been judged to be particularly effective in meeting local, State, and national educational goals; it has also displayed the qualities of excellence necessary to prepare young people for the challenges of the 21st Century; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend P.S. 172 Beacon School of Excellence upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, P.S. 172 Beacon School of Excellence is located in Brooklyn, New York and is one of 23 elementary schools in New York City Geographic District No.15; it is a public school that serves 542 students in grades Pre-K through K-5; and

WHEREAS, P.S. 172 Beacon School of Excellence made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2009; under the No Child Left Behind policy, a school makes Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) if it achieves the minimum levels of improvement determined by the State of New York in terms of student performance and other accountability measures; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, P.S. 172 Beacon School of Excellence had 12 students for every full-time equivalent teacher; the New York average is 13 students per full-time equivalent teacher; and

WHEREAS, Perfection may seem a quixotic goal in New York City, where children enter school from every imaginable background and ability level; but on the tests, P.S. 172, also called the Beacon School of Excellence, is coming close -- even though 80 percent of its students are poor enough to qualify for free lunch, nearly a quarter receive special education services, and many among its predominately Hispanic population do not speak English at home; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, the 580-student primary school topped the city with its fourth grade math scores, with all students passing, all but one with a mark of "advanced," or Level 4; in English, all but one of 75 fourth graders passed, earning a Level 3 or 4, placing it among the

city's top dozen schools; and

WHEREAS, On average, at schools with the same poverty rate, only 66 percent of the students pass the English test and 29 percent score at an advanced level in math, according to a NEW YORK TIMES analysis of Department of Education statistics; and though it is less well known, P.S. 172 regularly outperforms its neighbors in Park Slope and Carroll Gardens, where parents raise hundreds of thousands a year for extra aides and enrichment; and

WHEREAS, Ably led by Principal Jack Spatola, P.S. 172 Beacon School of Excellence continues to prosper today and well into the future; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those institutions of commitment and high achievement whose purpose and endeavors prove a dedication to the pursuit of excellence in the education of the youth of this noble Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend P.S. 172 Beacon School of Excellence upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jack Spatola, Principal, P.S. 172 Beacon School of Excellence.