

**RESOLUTION HONORING MARILYN F. JOHNSON
GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

WHEREAS, Marilyn F. Johnson has provided counsel to the Board and the Chicago Public Schools for the past seven years in her capacity as First Assistant Attorney from February 1996 through June 1996, and as General Counsel from July 1996 to the present; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn F. Johnson's efforts in the Law Department began at a critical time for the Chicago Public Schools, shortly after the passage of the Illinois School Reform Act of 1995, which authorized Chicago's Mayor Richard M. Daley to lead our schools into a new era, providing that Mayor Daley would appoint a new management team to improve the quality of educational opportunities for our students, cut costs and balance the system's budget; and

WHEREAS, as part of this management team, Marilyn F. Johnson has implemented an array of initiatives that have enhanced the quality of legal representation in the Board's Law Department; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as General Counsel, Marilyn F. Johnson has restructured the Board's Law Department in its entirety, so that it now includes 44 highly qualified attorneys in eight different practice groups, including school law, affirmative and commercial litigation, appellate practice, general litigation, corporate transactions, traditional labor, municipal finance, torts and workers compensation; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn F. Johnson has assisted the Board in developing myriad policies, including serving as the primary author of the Board's Debarment Policy, and overseeing this policy's initial implementation, pursuant to which more than fifty debarments have taken place; and

WHEREAS, as General Counsel, Marilyn F. Johnson oversaw the initiation of a non-resident tuition recoupment program which has resulted in judgments and agreements for payment of tuition to the Board of approximately \$1.1 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, under Marilyn F. Johnson's leadership, the Law Department has spearheaded the development of a model student discipline program which has resulted in safer schools; and

WHEREAS, at the Board's request, Marilyn F. Johnson spearheaded the Board's initiative to document its business transactions with written agreements, resulting in more than 1,200 contracts per year being negotiated and prepared by Board attorneys; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn F. Johnson supervised the analysis of the No Child Left Behind Act needed to enable the Board's educational team to implement the requirements of this legislation; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn F. Johnson has played a significant part in providing the best possible legal counsel to the Board and the Chicago Public Schools, and her knowledge, tremendous commitment and strong ethical background have been invaluable to the Board, and she has always protected the integrity and effective operation of the Board; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn F. Johnson has achieved this record of success while providing wise advice, compassionate mentoring, and unwavering friendship to countless individuals during her tenure at the Board, treating each person with respect and dignity, serving as a stabilizing force in times of crisis, bridging gaps between divergent views, always prepared and unflappable, with a ready smile, a hearty laugh, a quick wit and the perfect turn of phrase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 25th day of February, 2003, do hereby extend to Marilyn F. Johnson our thanks for her faithful services and offer our most sincere gratitude for her contributions to the Chicago Public Schools and the children of the City of Chicago.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be made available to Marilyn F. Johnson.