

Resolution

Whereas, Gloria Torres served with distinction on the Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS) Board of Education (BOE) from August, 2014, through April, 2023, having been appointed by the Board to fill the OKCPS BOE Election District Six Seat when it was vacated by her predecessor, mid-term, and subsequently elected to two, four-year terms by the District Six voters to represent the students, families and citizens therein; and,

Whereas, during the timeframe Gloria served on the OKCPS BOE, 111,919 students were served and 13,275 graduated; and

Whereas, Gloria holds the honor of being the first Latina elected to the OKCPS BOE; and,

Whereas, during her tenure on the Board, Gloria faithfully served two, one-year terms as Vice Chair of the Board (2017-18 and 2018-19), as Chairwoman of the Government Relations Committee, as Co-Chair of the Student Experience & Equity Committee, and as a member of the Budget & Finance, Policies, Decennial Redistricting, and Charter Schools Committees; and,

Whereas, a life-long Oklahoman, Gloria has spent more than 34 years in public education, which began in OKCPS. Over the span of her career, Gloria worked at every level from elementary to high school and served in several capacities from teacher assistant to principal. In 2004, she became OKCPS' first Latina Principal and was later named Principal of the Year by the Oklahoma Association of Bilingual Educators; and,

Whereas, Gloria earned her Bachelor's degree in Education from The University of Central Oklahoma and her Master's degree in Public Administration at Texas Women's University; and,

Whereas, Gloria served as Commissioner and Chairperson of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women; and,

Whereas, in addition to her elected and appointed board service she has, and continues, to serve on various boards including the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, Habitat for Humanity, and Community Action Agency; and,

Whereas, Gloria was an active member of the National School Board Association's National Hispanic Counsel and the Association of Latino Administrators & Superintendents, bringing invaluable national perspectives and information to the OKCPS District where Hispanic students represent the largest population served; and,

Whereas, Gloria played a key role during the exhaustive process the Policies Committee and Board undertook to implement two major overhauls of the canon of OKCPS Board Policies, streamlining, updating, and improving the same in July of 2016 and November of 2021, and led efforts resulting in the creation of many new and revision of existing policies throughout her tenure, including Vision for Equity (A-08), Nondiscrimination (G-02), Naming New Facilities (D-08), and Bond Oversight and Planning Committee (C-04), and Student Uniforms and Dress Code (F-22); and,

Whereas, Gloria enthusiastically joined her colleagues on the Board in support of the decision to change the Capitol Hill High School mascot, to rename schools previously named after confederate generals, and the effort to rename the district's new administration building, opened in June, 2020, as the Clara Luper Center for Educational Services; and,

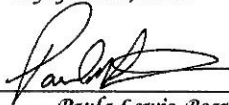
Whereas, while representing District Six, which is located on the southside of Oklahoma City, Gloria was a staunch advocate for the students and their families and district staff living in south OKC, building and maintaining strong, collaborative relationships with southside citizens and leaders, including the South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and the Greater OKC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and,

Whereas, Gloria championed efforts to increase the number of Spanish speaking staff, regularly promoted parent and community engagement, and was resolute in her continuous efforts to ensure the Board and Administration was focused on providing resources and opportunities to all students equitably, with an emphasis on English Language Learners; and,

Whereas, Gloria made every effort to ensure children, staff, and families feel safe and welcome in our schools, regardless of immigration status, gender, sexual orientation/identity, nationality, or faith and sought to be an example to students by demonstrating there are no limits to what they can achieve.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Oklahoma City Public Schools Board of Education, take great pride in recognizing and honoring Gloria Torres for her unwavering dedication to serving the students, parents, staff and community members of this district.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2023.

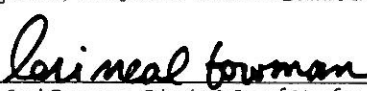

Paula Lewis, Board Chair

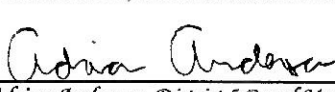

Carole Thompson, District 1 Board Member


Cary Pirrong, District 3 Board Member




Mark Mann, Vice Chair & District 4 Board Member


Lori Bowman, District 2 Board Member


Adrian Anderson, District 5 Board Member


Meg McElhane, District 7 Board Member