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Title: Honoring Leslie Mason, Principal of Thomas Mifflin Elementary School, on the occasion of her retirement.

Sponsors: Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Vaughn, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Gauthier, Councilmember Driscoll, Councilmember Gilmore Richardson, Councilmember Thomas, Councilmember Bass, Councilmember O'Neill

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Honoring Leslie Mason, Principal of Thomas Mifflin Elementary School, on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the members of this legislative body recognize individuals who have produced overwhelming impact to the community members in which they serve; and

WHEREAS, Leslie Mason has served in the Philadelphia School District for over 35 years. She has shown extraordinary commitment to the success of students and has shown astounding devotion in uniting family, community, and staff to one common mission: the academic success and wellbeing of the students; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mason’s impact to her school and students is evident, as she received the exceptional distinction of the Lindback Award for Distinguished Principals in 2020 for her remarkable dedication, leadership, and empathy in leading her school in one of the most unprecedented and turbulent years in decades; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mason embodies the essence of a grand Philadelphian through her grit, strength of character, and determination to lead by example; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mason has faced undeniable hardships but has not let them consume her. Her grit can most certainly be seen through her decision to continue performing daily responsibilities from her hospital bed and her home after undergoing surgery in 2020. It can be seen through her decision to return to work a month early. It can be seen at Thomas Mifflin Elementary School on weekdays at 8:00PM or on a Saturday or Sunday when she is behind her desk working extended hours; and

WHEREAS, Her strength of character can be exemplified through genuine relationships and acts of service with school faculty, neighbors, local organizations, community leaders, and most important her students. Ms. Mason makes it her personal mission to know the names of all her students and their family members and even stays current with her students’ lives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mason exudes a spirit that uplifts all the faculty around her and calls on them to be their utmost self. Ms. Mason's enthusiastic attitude is contagious, as it has caused faculty at Thomas Mifflin Elementary School to want to be a part of the change. Many have vowed that it is Ms. Mason, who has fostered this optimistic shift and continued growth within the community; and

WHEREAS, Her ability to lead is without comparison as she continually immerses herself in activities and dialogue with students and faculty. No task is beneath Ms. Mason as she can still be seen engaging in student activities or carrying tables to help set up for events. Ms. Mason has created an environment where her students and faculty feel seen, safe, and empowered; and

WHEREAS, Leslie Mason should be recognized for her undying commitment to her students, Thomas Mifflin Elementary School, and the School District of Philadelphia during her many years of service; and

WHEREAS, The Council of the City of Philadelphia graciously thanks Leslie Mason for her superior and unwavering leadership of Thomas Mifflin Elementary School. She has worked arduously to ensure that her students receive the absolute finest: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILDELPHIA, that it hereby honors Leslie Mason, Principal of Thomas Mifflin Elementary School, and extends its kindest regards for a blissful and prosperous retirement and continued triumph in all future ventures.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that an engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Leslie Mason as confirmation of the genuine admiration and respect of this legislative body.