

HOUSE RESOLUTION 80

By Vaughan

A RESOLUTION to recognize John S. Aitken on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should specially recognize, particularly on the occasion of their retirement, those outstanding school administrators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding individual is John S. Aitken, who has served as the first superintendent of Collierville Schools since his unanimous confirmation in December 2013; he will take his well-deserved retirement on June 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as superintendent, Mr. Aitken has successfully established Collierville Schools as a municipal school district and worked to provide digital learning devices to all students, significantly expand work-based learning opportunities, and foster ongoing, strategic district-community partnerships; he also oversaw the design and construction of the State's newest and largest high school, which opened its doors in August 2018; and

WHEREAS, a native of West Helena, Arkansas, John Aitken received his Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Math from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and his master's degree in school administration and supervision from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, an educator since 1983, Mr. Aitken spent nine years in the classroom as an advanced math and geometry teacher at Collierville High School; he then served as assistant principal of Houston High School and was named the school's principal in 1997. During his eleven years as principal, Houston High School was elevated to premier status in academics, athletics, and fine arts in the State; and

WHEREAS, John Aitken served as assistant superintendent of student services, leadership, and safety in Shelby County Schools (SCS), and he was the district's superintendent from 2009 until his retirement in 2013, during which time he led SCS to three consecutive years of all A's in academic achievement on the State's report card; he was credited with leading SCS in becoming the State's largest school system recommended for district accreditation in 2011-2012; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, Mr. Aitken has been recognized as Administrator of the Year by the Tennessee Association of Student Councils, Tennessee Principal of the Year by the Tennessee Parent Teacher Student Association, Outstanding Superintendent of the Year by the Tennessee Parent Teacher Association (PTA), School System Administrator of the Year by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA), and the two-time A.F. Bridges Principal of the Year by the TSSAA; he is also the recipient of the PTA's National Achievement Award and the H.R. Houston Community Leadership Award from Leadership Collierville; and

WHEREAS, a leader in his field, Mr. Aitken served as the 2017-2018 president of the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents; he is also an active member of the Rotary Club of Collierville; and

WHEREAS, John Aitken evinces his devout religious faith as a member of Collierville United Methodist Church, which he faithfully serves as a member of the choir; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Aitken is grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Jody; he is the proud father of three children and grandfather of two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, John Aitken has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of the students, parents, teachers, and school board members of Collierville Schools alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to John

S. Aitken our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applaud his dedication to the youth of Tennessee, and wish him much happiness and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.