

**RESOLUTION HONORING PATRICK J. ROCKS
GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

WHEREAS, after more than seven years of distinguished service as General Counsel to the Chicago Board of Education and eighteen years of faithful service as an attorney for the Corporation Counsel of the City of Chicago, Patrick J. Rocks is retiring;

WHEREAS, as General Counsel, Patrick Rocks has provided trusted legal stewardship through his unwavering adherence to the highest principles of ethics, professionalism and hard work;

WHEREAS, Patrick Rocks has given the Board valued legal counsel on a large range of issues including litigation, labor relations, education law, contracts, governance, compliance, land acquisitions and construction, and has supervised approximately 45 attorneys as well as several units incorporated into the Law Department – enterprise records management, investigations, risk management and FOIA;

WHEREAS, under Patrick Rocks' leadership, the 1980 desegregation consent decree was substantially modified in 2007 and vacated in 2009, and he then guided the District in developing its own admissions criteria for magnet and selective enrollment schools based on socio-economic factors;

WHEREAS, Patrick Rocks shepherded the District through the *Corey H.* consent decree litigation and began the process to terminate the consent decree and return control of special education to the Chicago Public Schools;

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Patrick Rocks collaborated with the Illinois State Board of Education and the U.S. Department of Education and other state and federal agencies in support of new District programming and implementation, legislative initiatives and to ensure and protect District funding;

WHEREAS, Patrick Rocks negotiated with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights on several issues to ensure that Chicago Public School students are educated in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, and religion;

WHEREAS, Patrick Rocks provided invaluable legal guidance to the District throughout the Renaissance 2010 initiative which resulted in the opening of more than 100 new schools;

WHEREAS, Patrick Rocks assisted the Board in developing various policies and initiatives that improved the educational services provided to students with disabilities, students who are homeless and students who are English language learners in the Chicago Public Schools;

WHEREAS, Patrick Rocks favorably resolved a number of long-standing legal actions and disputes saving the Board millions of dollars;

WHEREAS, under Patrick Rocks' leadership, the Law Department has aggressively investigated complaints by parents and children of abusive behavior by CPS employees and worked to ensure appropriate discipline or discharge;

WHEREAS, Patrick Rocks has been a stabilizing force for the Board and District administration during three leadership transitions; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Rocks has exhibited the highest standards of integrity, dedication, respectful collaboration, and intellectual prowess throughout his impressive career of public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and Members of the Chicago Board of Education, gathered here this 27th day of June, 2012, do hereby extend to Patrick J. Rocks our thanks for his steadfast service and offer our most sincere gratitude for his contributions to the Chicago Public Schools and the children of the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be made available to Patrick J. Rocks.