

September 29, 2015

**RESOLUTION HONORING JAMES L. BEBLEY  
GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

**WHEREAS**, after more than three years of distinguished service as General Counsel to the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and more than ten years of faithful service as Deputy General Counsel and First Deputy General Counsel, combined, James L. Bebley is leaving the General Counsel post;

**WHEREAS**, James L. Bebley is a product of Chicago Public Schools, having graduated from Daniel Hale Williams Elementary School and Robert Lindblom Technical High School;

**WHEREAS**, shortly after obtaining his Juris Doctor degree in 1985, James L. Bebley assumed the post of Assistant Corporation Counsel and later became Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the Mayor City of Chicago where he, among other major initiatives, monitored and staffed the O'Hare Development Program, General Obligation Bond Program and the Mayor's Policy Advisory Conference;

**WHEREAS**, prior to joining the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, James L. Bebley had a distinguished career in private practice where his keen intellect and stellar representation of clients in significant multi-million dollar, complex financial transactions proved legendary;

**WHEREAS**, as General Counsel, James L. Bebley has provided trusted legal stewardship through his unwavering adherence to the highest principles of ethics, professionalism and hard work;

**WHEREAS**, James L. Bebley 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 and employee engagement;

**WHEREAS**, under James L. Bebley's leadership, the *Corey H.* consent decree litigation terminated, returning control of special education to the Chicago Public Schools; and the historical largest school reorganization in 2013 was successfully defended ensuring a positive educational environment for Chicago Public School students;

**WHEREAS**, James L. Bebley shepherded the District through the 2012 Chicago Teachers Union strike enabling the District to maintain stability during a tumultuous time period;

**WHEREAS**, James L. Bebley negotiated with the United States Department of Education Office for 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**, James L. Bebley assisted the Board in introducing restorative justice policies into the Student Code of Conduct, and such policies ultimately resulted in a significant reduction in student arrests, out of school suspensions and expulsions.

**WHEREAS**, James L. Bebley favorably resolved a number of long-standing legal actions and disputes saving the Board millions of dollars;

**WHEREAS**, James L. Bebley has been a stabilizing force for the Board and District administration during seven leadership transitions; and

**WHEREAS**, James L. Bebley 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015, do hereby extend to James L. Bebley 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 James L. Bebley.