

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1830

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Wyandotte High School.

WHEREAS, Wyandotte High School has been recognized by the National Education Association as an urban school which has engineered a remarkable revival; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, under a new principal, the school launched a reform program called "First Things First". The program stressed seven requirements for improvement including high standards, stable adult relationships and autonomy for teachers. The school was divided into eight minischools called "Small Learning Communities", each with a different theme. Teams of eight to 10 teachers stay with about 150 students throughout their high school years. Initially the focus was on discipline: A system which began with peer counseling, then meeting with the entire teaching team before the sanction of suspension was imposed. Gradually the small learning communities caused a traditional high school to become more like a large family; and

WHEREAS, Each teaching team meets for two hours on Wednesdays. Initially it was to determine which problems need to be addressed and whether to seek outside assistance. Now the planning sessions are able to focus on the instruction of the students; and

WHEREAS, The success of this program is shown by the following statistics: From 1998 to 2001 the average attendance at Wyandotte High School has increased from 72 percent to 80 percent and the graduation rate during the same period has increased from 50 percent to 70 percent: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Wyandotte High School for the great improvements they have made during the past five years with the "First Things First" program of instruction; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Dr. Ray Daniels, Superintendent, Kansas City USD 500, 625 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101-2805 and to Mr. Walter Thompson, Principal, Wyandotte High School, 2501 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66102-4021 plus three copies to Senator Haley.

Senate Resolution No. 1830 was sponsored by Senators Haley, Gilstrap and Steineger.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*