

Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

**IN THE MATTER OF HONORING SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE
HARTER OF THE WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT FOR HIS SERVICE AND CONGRATULATING HIM
ON HIS RETIREMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016/393

WHEREAS, in July 2006, Bruce Harter became the Superintendent of Schools of the West Contra Costa School District, bringing with him 15 years of experience as a superintendent in a number of school districts nationwide. Dr. Harter earned his Bachelor degree at the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. at the University of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, since starting his career in Detroit 45 years ago, Dr. Harter has also been a math and science teacher, a wrestling coach, an assistant principal, principal and associate superintendent, always motivated by his deep commitment to student learning; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harter's leadership helped guide numerous achievements in the West Contra Costa School District (WCCUSD) including: in June 2012 paying off a state loan, ending 21 years of state oversight; a number of schools earning Distinguished and Gold Ribbon status including DeAnza High - Gold Ribbon School in 2015; Hanna Ranch and Orinda Elementary Schools - Distinguished Schools in 2012; Middle College - Distinguished School in 2009 and 2005; the percentage of graduating seniors planning on attending college increased from 46% in 2006 to 80% in 2015; and 13 schools were rebuilt with major improvements at 6 schools; and

WHEREAS, other WCCUSD achievements under Dr. Harter's tenure include the suspension rate decreasing from 10.8% in 2011-2012 to 6.6% in 2013-14; expulsions dropping to zero; more than 6000 parents and community members receiving volunteer badges to help in the schools; and

WHEREAS, in the WCCUSD, the percentage of graduates completing UC/CSU requirements rose from 35% in 2010-11 to 42% in 2013-14 and the dropout rate decreased by 71% from 2006-07 to 2013-14. The district is recognized by College Board as an AP Honor Roll District; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harter's consistent message to students is, "This is important. You can do it. I won't give up on you,"; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Harter, a devoted mentor to staff, teachers, and students, is a staunch proponent of public schools and public education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harter is retiring at the end of the 2016 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby congratulate West Contra Costa Unified School District Superintendent

Bruce Harter

on his retirement and thank him for his dedicated service to students, families and for his years of dedicated and selfless service to this community.

PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 14th day of June, 2016.

Candace Andersen
CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair,
District II Supervisor

John Gioia
JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor

Karen Mitchoff
KAREN MITCHOFF
District IV Supervisor

Mary N. Piepho
MARY N. PIEPHO
District III Supervisor

Federal D. Glover
FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor



I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown:

ATTESTED: June 14, 2016

DAVID TWA, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By *Stephanie Melby*, Deputy