

2018 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 488

Commending Gordon Stokes.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 7, 2018
Agreed to by the Senate, March 9, 2018

WHEREAS, Gordon Stokes, a dedicated leader and educator who serves as principal at Rachel Carson Middle School, was named the 2017 Outstanding New Principal by Fairfax County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Stokes earned a master's degree in history from the University of Virginia; he later received a National Board certification in social studies in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Stokes began his career in education at Rachel Carson Middle School, where he spent nine years as a history teacher; he then served as a LEAD Fairfax administrative intern at Francis Scott Key Middle School before becoming an assistant principal at Luther Jackson Middle School and South County Middle School; and

WHEREAS, in July 2015, Gordon Stokes began serving as principal of Rachel Carson Middle School; during his tenure, he has articulated a compelling vision for the school's future and earned a reputation as an innovative and collaborative leader; and

WHEREAS, as principal at Rachel Carson Middle School, Gordon Stokes has carefully observed classes and reached out to students by hosting group lunches; he also oversaw the school's move to a block schedule to allow more time for students to learn 21st century skills; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Stokes selected "Crossing Over: Proud Traditions, Bright Future" as the theme for his first year at Rachel Carson Middle School; he also made the novel *The Crossover* required reading for all students and staff and arranged to have its author, Kwame Alexander, speak at the school; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Stokes was one of five finalists for the 2017 Outstanding New Principal award; he was announced as the winner at the annual Fairfax County Public Schools Honors Event held on June 7, 2017; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Gordon Stokes on being named the 2017 Outstanding New Principal by Fairfax County Public Schools; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Gordon Stokes as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his spectacular achievements and best wishes for continued success.

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