

## **Proclamation Honoring Royal Oak School District Board of Education**

**Whereas**, January is school board recognition month and is therefore a time to salute the work of volunteer school board members and to celebrate public education; and

**Whereas**, community-governed public education has been called the backbone of American democracy and indeed one of the very foundations of our democratic society; and

**Whereas**, publicly elected members of the Royal Oak Board of Education ensure that decisions on school programming, properties, and facilities represent our community's values, culture and circumstances; and

Whereas, the school board members in Royal Oak are responsible for the education of approximately 5,000 students and oversee almost 500 employees and the annual operating budget; and

Whereas, this year more than any time in our recent past, school board members have the challenge of wading through uncertain and unprecedented times due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic; and

Whereas, decisions made with the latest information in an evolving situation always made with the health and safety of all students and employees at the forefront; and

Whereas, we acknowledge and thank Jeff Brinker, Gary Briggs and Carrie Beerer for the outstanding service to the district and wish them well on their future endeavors as they conclude their tenure with the Royal Oak School Board; and

Whereas, we welcome Erika Alexander, Timothy Ciechorski and Lisa-Aline Hanes as newly elected members to join Deborah Anderson, Marty Cardamone, Allison Sykes and MaryAnne VanHaitsma and have in these seven individuals the confidence they will continue the inspired work of the previous board and will lead the community through the pandemic and create a future filled with boundless possibilities for Royal Oak's students.

**Now, therefore be it resolved**, I, Mayor Mike Fournier and the Members of the Royal Oak City Commission expresses appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the entire community to the volunteer members of the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education for everything they do to make the schools and the entire community an educated and enlightened place to live.