

CHARACTER COUNTS! PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the next generation will be the stewards of our communities, nation, and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character, and

WHEREAS, concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the nation, and

WHEREAS, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions and civic groups, and

WHEREAS, the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens, and the public good is advanced when young people are taught that good character counts in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace, and

WHEREAS, scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by youth-influencing institutions and individuals to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character, and

WHEREAS, character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, efforts by faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character, and

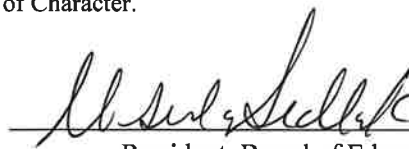
WHEREAS, in July of 1992 the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders and ethics scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic society, and

WHEREAS, the Aspen Declaration states that “effective character education is based on ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society”: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship, and these “Six Pillars of Character” transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences, and

WHEREAS, the Aspen Declaration states that “The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to promote the development of good character.”

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Education of Northbrook/Glenview School District #30 hereby endorses the “Six Pillars of Character” for the twentieth consecutive year and urges all adults to seek out opportunities to incorporate these core ethical values into their work with young people in educational programs, in the classroom, on the playground, campus, and athletic field, and encourages all citizens, corporate and individual, to model these traits of good character in an ongoing commitment to promote character development and ethical behavior among the youth of our state, and

FURTHER, recognizes the week of October 20 - 26 as “**CHARACTER COUNTS! Week**”, and calls on the District 30 community to embrace these Six Pillars of Character.



President, Board of Education School District 30