

By: Senator(s) Hamilton,
Dearing, Smith, Turner

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF DR.
2 LARRY BOX, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE STARKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT, UPON
3 THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, after 34 years with the Starkville School District,
5 and 13 years as Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Larry Box has
6 officially announced his retirement to school board members; and

7 WHEREAS, his announcement comes only months after Dr. Box was
8 selected as Superintendent of the Year 2002 by the Mississippi
9 Association of School Administrators; and

10 WHEREAS, the recognition as Superintendent of the Year is a
11 result of Dr. Box's tireless efforts to improve schools and there
12 is no doubt that his vision, personal characteristics and skills
13 have paved the way for a decade of significant accomplishments in
14 the Starkville Schools; his success as a superintendent in this
15 community is a significant story of a small town in the U.S. that
16 provides a high quality, comprehensive education; and

17 WHEREAS, his vision, his leadership and character set the
18 tone and pace for exceptional and significant academic results and
19 accomplishments of the school district. He engages "stakeholders"
20 in the district's planning process and thus creates an atmosphere
21 and an environment for focused learning. This has resulted in a
22 high quality, diverse curriculum which provides for continued
23 growth in student performance on state tests. He encourages those
24 around him to embrace change, accept challenges, take risks and
25 solve problems in creative ways. High levels of parent and
26 community involvement, successful votes on bond issues and



27 consistent recognition of staff, programs and schools at state and
28 national levels attest to his successful efforts; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Box stated that early in life he knew he wanted
30 to be an educator. He earned his undergraduate and graduate
31 degrees at Mississippi State University. His career includes
32 tenures as a math teacher, principal and central office
33 administrator. He entered school administration with the goal of
34 providing high quality education opportunities for all children.
35 His leadership style is a mix of structure and consideration.
36 Organizational skills, vision and dealing with all individuals in
37 a way that tells them they are valued and important has
38 contributed to his successes. He enjoys being a part of the
39 solution to problems; and

40 WHEREAS, under Dr. Box's administration, the district's
41 accomplishments include: making National Board of Professional
42 Teaching Certification a priority, 34 teachers now hold national
43 certification; development of a partnership with the U.S. Fish and
44 Wildlife Service, and funding and construction of the Noxubee
45 Conservation Education Center at the Noxubee Wildlife Refuge;
46 institution of a comprehensive approach to teaching reading that
47 has produced consistent growth and resulted in selection for
48 inclusion in a national Educational Television feature; produced
49 three Presidential Awards for Math and Science winners; created
50 Emerson Family School to serve adult education and preschool
51 programs; developed a Professional Development Center to provide
52 teacher-training programs and community education programs;
53 established a program to honor distinguished alumni; partnered
54 with the Starkville Foundation for Public Education to expand
55 scholarship offerings to graduating seniors; built a
56 nationally-recognized fine arts program; implemented a middle
57 school team teaching concept at Armstrong Middle School, resulting
58 in the school's inclusion in development of a national model for



59 middle schools; initiated and completed a district-wide building
60 program using combined funding sources; and much more; and

61 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the career
62 of this excellent public school administrator who has brought
63 honor to his school, his community and to the State of
64 Mississippi:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
66 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the legacy of public
67 service of Dr. Larry Box, Superintendent of the Starkville
68 Municipal Separate School District, upon the occasion of his
69 retirement, and wish him and his family many successes in the
70 future.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
72 Dr. Box and his family, be forwarded to the Starkville School
73 District Board of Trustees, and be made available to the Capitol
74 Press Corps.

