**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE STUDENTS, ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND PARENTS OF SAXE GOTHA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF LEXINGTON COUNTY FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR BEING SELECTED AS A LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that Saxe Gotha Elementary School was named a Lighthouse School under FranklinCovey’s The Leader in Me program on Friday, April 19, 2013; and

Whereas, FranklinCovey’s The Leader in Me process was developed to prepare students to meet the challenges of today’s global economy and reduce the gap between the way students are prepared for the workforce and the skills and character employers are seeking; and

Whereas, designed to be integrated into a school’s core curriculum, the process helps to create a common language within a school, built on proven principle‑based leadership skills found in Dr. Stephen R. Covey’s best‑selling book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*; and

Whereas, the principles encourage students to be proactive so that they realize they are in charge; to begin with the end in mind, which requires having a plan; to put first things first so that they work first, then play; to think “win‑win,” realizing everyone can win; to seek first to understand, then to be understood so that they learn to listen before they talk; to synergize by working together; and to “sharpen the saw,” learning the benefits of balance; and

Whereas, also a recipient of the South Carolina Department of Education Silver Award, Saxe Gotha Elementary School is one of only two schools in Lexington County School District to receive the prestigious Lighthouse School status; and

Whereas, the Saxe Gotha Elementary administrators, staff, students, parents, and community began working toward Lighthouse recognition three years ago; and

Whereas, in order to achieve this goal, they had to put a Lighthouse team in place, create a leadership environment, teach and reinforce the 7 Habits, work together collaboratively, have students in meaningful leadership roles, involve parents, create and hold leadership events, use student data through data notebooks and other leadership tools, and show measurable results; and

Whereas, currently only fifty‑four schools worldwide have received Lighthouse Status, including schools in Canada, Indonesia, and the United States; and

Whereas, Saxe Gotha, with almost seven hundred students in prekindergarten through grade five, is only one of eight schools in the Palmetto State that have earned Lighthouse Status to date; and

Whereas, as part of the lengthy process of self‑evaluation and implementation of the leadership model with students, staff, parents, and community to become a Lighthouse School, members of a Lighthouse Review team spent March 26, 2013, at Saxe Gotha Elementary, meeting with and interviewing parents, students, and staff, touring the school, visiting classrooms, and reviewing data with students; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is grateful for the pride and recognition that the Saxe Gotha Elementary School family has brought to the school, the community, and our State and looks to hear of the continued success of these winners of the Lighthouse School honor. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor the students, administrators, faculty, staff, and parents of Saxe Gotha Elementary School of Lexington County for their outstanding work and congratulate them for being selected as a Lighthouse School.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Saxe Gotha Elementary School Principal Beth Houck.

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