

Resolution

Whereas, Dr. Melvin Todd was born in 1933 and grew up in segregated Oklahoma City where he was greatly influenced by meeting sociologist and civil rights activist W.E.B. Dubois and acclaimed author Ralph Ellison; and,

Whereas, Dr. Todd attended University High School in Urbana, IL, where he was only one of two Black students, and graduated high school from the Palmer Memorial Institute in North Carolina, one of the few college prep schools for Black students in the U.S. at the time. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Langston University and both a Master's degree and Doctorate in Education from the University of Oklahoma; and,

Whereas, after graduating from Langston, he joined the Army Signal Corps in Korea, and upon his return home, Dr. Todd began his teaching career at Lawton Public Schools. He then joined Oklahoma City Public Schools where he spent 16 years serving as a counselor and Vice Principal at Douglass High School; Vice Principal and Principal at Northeast High School, Director of Curriculum, and Assistant Superintendent; and,

Whereas, Dr. Todd was Principal of Northeast High School from 1969 to 1971, leading the school through court-ordered desegregation requiring Dr. Todd to show extraordinary bravery, limitless patience, and unwavering personal commitment; and,

Whereas, Dr. Todd began a 16-year career with the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education in 1975 as special assistant to the Chancellor. He was promoted to Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in 1980, then the highest-ranking educational office held by a Black Oklahoman; and,

Whereas, upon retiring in 1981, he joined Langston University as Special Assistant to the President. He also served as a trustee for the American College Testing (ACT) Program and became Vice Chairman of the national board in 1990; and,

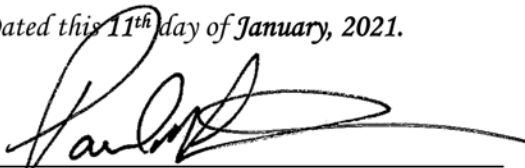
Whereas, Dr. Todd was given Langston's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1976, named to the Oklahoma African American Hall of Fame in 1988, inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2002, and retired from Langston University in 2013; and,

Whereas, in 2017, Dr. Todd received a Doctor of Laws Honorary degree from Langston University; and,

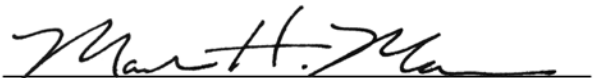
Whereas, Dr. Todd died on December 2, 2020, leaving a trailblazing legacy of leadership through the thousands of students whose lives he impacted.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Oklahoma City Public Schools Board of Education extends its deepest condolences to his family and friends and takes great pride in honoring Dr. Melvin Todd, a pioneer in civil rights in education. He was a role model and mentor to many, inspiring legions of educators and public servants through almost five decades of service.

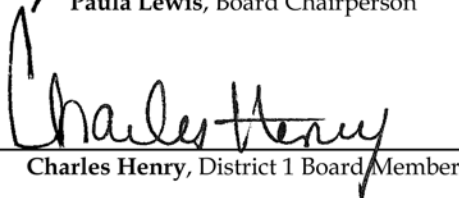
Dated this 11th day of January, 2021.



Paula Lewis, Board Chairperson



Mark Mann, Vice Chair & District 4 Board Member



Charles Henry, District 1 Board Member



Rebecca Budd, District 2 Board Member



Gloria Torres, District 6 Board Member



Meg McElhane, District 7 Board Member