

No. R-452. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Woodford Elementary School on its bicentennial anniversary.

(H.C.R.337)

Offered by: Representatives Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Clark of Vergennes, Corcoran of Bennington, Donovan of Burlington, Komline of Dorset, Krawczyk of Bennington, Malcolm of Pawlet, Manwaring of Wilmington, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington, Moran of Wardsboro, Morrissey of Bennington, Olsen of Jamaica and Wilson of Manchester

Offered by: Senators Doyle, Hartwell, Nitka, Sears and Starr

Whereas, in 1809, shortly after the schoolhouse was opened in the town of Woodford, local resident Elkanah Danforth granted “\$1.00 to my full satisfaction to the proprietors of a school house lately built in Woodford second day of June 1809,” and he also granted to the community a “certain piece of land said school house standing on the premises the same being situated in said Woodford,” and

Whereas, by the early 1900s, there were four schools in Woodford, and all were consolidated at the 1809 location as the Woodford Elementary School, and

Whereas, the historic single-room schoolhouse remained in use into the early 1990s, by which time there was broad recognition of its inadequacy to meet the town’s contemporary educational needs, and

Whereas, the community debated extensively about the wisdom of expanding the old schoolhouse versus sending its children to class in downtown Bennington, and

Whereas, with respect to the schoolhouse option, there remained strong sentiment to preserve its historic integrity but still provide students with modern learning facilities, and

Whereas, in the end, an addition was made to the schoolhouse that included three graded classrooms, a multipurpose room, a Title I classroom, a library, and other support facilities, and

Whereas, the Woodford Elementary School was one of the first schools in the area to open an all-day kindergarten, and

Whereas, Woodford Elementary School students delight in the benefits they can enjoy because of their school's small size, including field trips involving all of the school's students, cooking for each other, the extra attention they receive from teachers, being able to work and play together, and the many community events held at the school including potluck dinners, bingo games, and pancake breakfasts, and

Whereas, the Woodford Elementary School has a nice environment for learning and everyone knows each other very well, and

Whereas, former students who have grown up and developed interesting careers, such as an author and a vocalist, have visited the school, and

Whereas, in 1999, the students and teachers buried two 25-year time capsules to be opened in 2024, and

Whereas, in commemoration of the Woodford Elementary School's bicentennial, a delegation of students, faculty, and parents are visiting the state

house to witness the legislature's recognition of their school's longevity and success, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Woodford Elementary School on its bicentennial anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Woodford Elementary School.