

**Resolution Honoring  
JOHN TARKA  
President, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers**

- Whereas,*** John Tarka returned to his roots to serve as President of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers in 2005 following a distinguished tenure as the Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers' statewide Executive Director; and
- Whereas,*** John's career in education spanned more than 40 years, during which time he served as an English teacher, athletic coach, instructional teacher leader, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission, and labor leader; and
- Whereas,*** John frequently appeared before the State Board of Education, representing educators across the Commonwealth with unparalleled distinction and enthusiasm and a straightforward approach to issues before the Board mixed with good humor; and
- Whereas,*** He is well-respected by State Board members and his colleagues in the education community for his strong personal and professional commitment to improving education for all students in this Commonwealth; and
- Whereas,*** His leadership on behalf of educational professionals has helped to shape educational policies at the local, state and national level; and
- Whereas,*** The strength and the success of Pittsburgh's historic Empowering Effective Teachers initiative is a reflection of John's leadership to foster cooperation and mutual respect among educators and school district leaders; now therefore be it resolved
- Resolved:*** That the members of the State Board of Education commend John Tarka for his exemplary dedication to education in this Commonwealth and extend their best wishes for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Given under my hand and our seal  
this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011

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Larry Wittig  
Chairman