MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM: October 2019

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF MELISSA GRANDEL, MISSOURI TEACHER OF THE YEAR

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Teachers and Leaders – Provide support to ensure an effective teacher in every classroom and an effective leader in every school.

SUMMARY

The Department recently announced the selection of Ms. Melissa Grandel, a high school English teacher in the Fordland R-III School District, as Missouri’s Teacher of the Year for 2020. As a result of this recognition, Ms. Grandel also becomes Missouri’s candidate for the 2020 National Teacher of the Year program.

Ms. Grandel has been teaching for 24 years and has been in her current position at Fordland High School since 1998. She was chosen from a field of seven finalists following personal interviews conducted by a 12-member selection committee.

Ms. Grandel earned a bachelor’s degree in English education and master’s degree in communication from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri.

Ms. Grandel, the six state finalists, 10 state semifinalists, and 18 regional teachers of the year in this year’s Teacher of the Year program were formally honored by the Department on Monday, October 21, 2019, at a banquet in Jefferson City.

PRESENTER

Paul Katnik, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality, will assist in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution honoring Melissa Grandel as Missouri’s Teacher of the Year for 2020.
Missouri State Board of Education

Resolution

Whereas, Melissa Grandel has been selected as Missouri’s Teacher of the Year for 2020 and will represent more than 69,000 public school teachers across the state in the National Teacher of the Year Program; and

Whereas, Ms. Grandel has always believed that she has one purpose in life: to teach kids, and she wholeheartedly believes that all students deserve a fair opportunity to learn and succeed no matter their situation or background; and

Whereas, Ms. Grandel’s goal is to relate to the individual student to find a way to support the educational success of each one, and through highly-engaging projects, real-world connections and equitable initiatives, she allows her students to self-discover and blossom into their best selves; and

Whereas, Ms. Grandel believes student success is the only option, is known for setting high standards for every student and has earned admiration from her community for her ability to bring out the best in every student; and

Whereas, Ms. Grandel is a leader in her building, district and region who actively seeks opportunities to improve her work, share her knowledge and make her students, peers and school better; and

Whereas, Ms. Grandel believes that teaching is a combination of supporting students who face struggles, giving them someone they can trust with their dreams, inspiring ALL children about life, preparing them for their futures and allowing them to become independent learners; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Missouri State Board of Education formally commends Ms. Grandel on her selection as Missouri’s Teacher of the Year for 2020, and extends its congratulations to Ms. Grandel, her students, and the Fordland R-III School District; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board expresses its deep appreciation to Ms. Grandel for her commitment to excellence in teaching and for her outstanding service to her students, school district, community, and public education in Missouri.

Presented October 22, 2019, at Jefferson City, Missouri

Charlie Shields, President
Missouri State Board of Education