

1 Introduced by Council Member Boylan and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Becton, Morgan, Ferraro, Pittman, Carlucci, DeFoor, Newby,  
3 Priestly Jackson and Dennis:

4  
5  
6 **RESOLUTION 2021-130-A**

7 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING JIM SCHMITT UPON BEING  
8 SELECTED THE 2021 VYSTAR DUVAL COUNTY TEACHER  
9 OF THE YEAR; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Jim Schmitt has 28 years of teaching experience, and  
12 currently teaches history, global perspectives and research at  
13 Mandarin High School in the Cambridge Advanced International  
14 Certificate of Education program where he has worked for 11 years;  
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Schmitt has served as a classroom teacher, a  
17 teacher trainer and as an assistant principal in schools all over  
18 Duval County, including Raines High, Paxon High and Northwestern  
19 Middle Schools. Mr. Schmitt is also a veteran and was a Lieutenant  
20 with the U.S. Navy for six years; and

21 **Whereas**, during his tenure, Mr. Schmitt has done more than  
22 just teach, he also developed a writing program for at-risk  
23 students, wrote a \$10,000 grant for a school-to-work program,  
24 served as a standards coach and coached championship-winning teams  
25 in cross country and track and field; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the teacher of the year community-driven selection  
27 process is rigorous: each public school nominates one teacher as  
28 Teacher of the Year, then the Jacksonville Public Education Fund  
29 organizes community selection committees, which include educators,  
30 community leaders and business leaders. The committees read  
31 teachers' applications, review letters of recommendation from

1 principals, students and parents, interview semi-finalists and  
2 finalists, and observe their work in the classroom; and

3 **WHEREAS**, throughout his career, Jim Schmitt has excelled as a  
4 teacher leader. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, he took a  
5 leadership role in helping teachers collaborate even more,  
6 developing a community discussion group to exchange technology  
7 strategies that work. Duval County Schools Superintendent Dr. Diana  
8 Greene said that Mr. Schmitt epitomizes all that is good and great  
9 in Duval County Public Schools; and

10 **WHEREAS**, during Mr. Schmitt's acceptance speech at the award  
11 ceremony, he acknowledged each of his students by name. He went on  
12 to speak about his teaching philosophy, saying that you cannot  
13 teach what you don't "grow," noting that teachers' love of students  
14 is the difference maker in society, and emphasized that there is no  
15 way to reach a student and guide their learning if you haven't set  
16 the table with a smile and a kindness. Mr. Schmitt also said that  
17 in today's world, with uncertainty and, at times, fear for the  
18 future, we as teachers know that our class is a haven of hope for  
19 our students; now therefore

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

21 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends  
22 Mandarin High School teacher Jim Schmitt upon being selected the  
23 VyStar 2021 Duval County Teacher of the Year and for his many years  
24 of inspiring service to the students and families in Duval County  
25 Schools.

26 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
27 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
28 without the Mayor's signature.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8

Form Approved:

/s/ Paige H. Johnston

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

GC-#1416895-v1-Boylan-Teacher\_of\_the\_Year\_Jim\_Schmitt.docx