

1 Introduced by Council Member Boylan:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-130**

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

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

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

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

24 **WHEREAS**, the teacher of the year community-driven selection
25 process is rigorous: each public school nominates one teacher as
26 Teacher of the Year, then the Jacksonville Public Education Fund
27 organizes community selection committees, which include educators,
28 community leaders and business leaders. The committees read
29 teachers' applications, review letters of recommendation from
30 principals, students and parents, interview semi-finalists and
31 finalists, and observe their work in the classroom; and

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

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

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

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

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

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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