



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
May 20, 2019
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District 39 Renames Preschool in Honor of Retiring Superintendent

(Wilmette, IL...) The surprise was revealed at District 39's May 20th Board of Education meeting. In honor of retiring superintendent Dr. Ray Lechner, the District's inclusive preschool program will now be known as **Lechner Early Education Program**. Dr. Lechner is retiring at the end of June after 20 years in District 39.

The new sign was unveiled when an adorable group of D39 early childhood students came up to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Lechner was clearly surprised and touched by this recognition; the innovative and inclusive early childhood program in D39 was championed by Dr. Lechner early in his tenure and has grown and thrived under his leadership.

In speaking about Dr. Lechner's leadership with the early childhood program, Board president member Lisa Schneider-Fabes summed it up: "It required strength of conviction and bringing people together to step into change. It teaches us all something about how to interact with each other...reminding us...that inclusion is critical for all of us, recognizing and celebrating all of our differences. With that in mind, to honor and commemorate the work and service you've given to District 39, the Board of Education has decided that District 39's early childhood program will now be known as the Lechner Early Education Program."

The sign will proudly hang at Romona School, which houses D39's preschool program.

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