

**Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California**

Resolution No.:

Adopt a resolution congratulating **Cherie Smith** for being named the *2026 Read to Me Project Teacher of the Year*.

WHEREAS, Cherie Smith, a fourth-grade teacher at Mary Chapa Elementary School, has dedicated twelve years to educating and inspiring students through meaningful literacy instruction, leadership development, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Cherie Smith was named the *2026 Read to Me Project Teacher of the Year* in recognition of her exceptional commitment to advancing literacy, empowering student leaders, and creating equitable learning opportunities for children and families throughout Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, through her participation in the Read to Me Project model, **Cherie Smith** has fostered a classroom culture where students take pride in reading aloud, supporting one another, and sharing the joy of reading within their homes and the community; and

WHEREAS, during the 2025–2026 school year, **Cherie Smith** and her students became the first-ever winners of the Read for All Winter Break Challenge, a countywide literacy initiative designed to encourage reading engagement during school breaks, achieving a record-setting score and surpassing every participating classroom and school across Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her work in literacy education, **Cherie Smith** serves as Director of school plays, Talent Show Coordinator, and Spelling Bee Coordinator, further demonstrating her dedication to enriching the full educational experience and fostering student creativity, confidence, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, The Read to Me Project, founded in 2011, is a literacy-focused nonprofit organization that empowers children, caregivers, and communities throughout Monterey County through no-cost, family-centered literacy programming, bilingual book access, peer reading mentorship, and equitable educational opportunities, directly serving nearly 4,000 students; and

WHEREAS, the leadership and dedication demonstrated by **Cherie Smith** reflect the vital role educators play in strengthening literacy, building student confidence, and shaping the future of Monterey County communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all residents thereof, hereby congratulates **Cherie Smith** for being named the *2026 Read to Me Project Teacher of the Year*, commending her dedication, leadership, and lasting impact on students, families, and the broader Monterey County community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this **23rd** day of **June** 2026, upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____ by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book ____ for the meeting on _____.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California

By _____
Deputy