Whereas,	
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Florence B. Mathis Elementary School is celebrating the one year anniversary of receiving the their Cognia STEM Certification. They were the first elementary school in the City of Foley and third in Baldwin County to receive this certification; and

## Whereas,

Cognia STEM Certification is the first internationally recognized mark of quality for STEM schools and programs, signaling the growing emphasis placed on STEM education by educators, politicians, and business leaders around the world. In earning this certification, Florence B. Mathis Elementary School has demonstrated its commitment to preparing its students for their educational and career opportunities of the future by ensuring its students will have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their postsecondary pursuits and as workforce contributors in the 21st-century economy; and

## Whereas,

Florence B. Mathis Elementary School is a leader in STEM education for Baldwin County Public Schools. Their vision has led them into working towards advancing their students' learning into the rigor of today's science, technology, engineering, and math standards. They were the only school in Baldwin County to have a STEM team compete in the University of South Alabama's and AMSTI's STEM competition in 2019 where they placed first overall in robotics and 5<sup>th</sup> overall; and

## Whereas,

Florence B. Mathis Elementary School collaborated as a facility and decided their professional learning would be STEM focused until they attended The Ron Clark Academy. After experiencing the Academy's synergy with music and dance, they broadened their focus to add the arts in STEM to STEAM. Teachers have attended Model Schools, Trek Tech, AMSTI, and Kagan Cooperative Learning trainings to discover more ways they can include STEAM into their curriculum and embed it into their school culture. Their goal is to be on the forefront of STEAM certification for their system and be consistent with Baldwin County Public Schools' vision; and

## Whereas,

The vision of Baldwin County Public Schools is to foster a nurturing environment with high expectations for students to achieve their potential and graduate with countless opportunities. Baldwin County Public Schools' mission is to prepare all students to graduate College and Career Ready through a culture of equity and opportunity. Florence B. Elementary School is #BaldwinProud! and #CommunityStrong. As a part of Baldwin County Public Schools, their mission is to ignite a passion for learning in an environment where everyone is nurtured and inspired for a successful future.

## Dow, therefore, I, Ralph Hellmich, Mayor of the City of Foley, Alabama, do hereby commend Florence B. Mathis Elementary School for the tremendous strides the school has made to receive these two prestigious certifications and on behalf of all residents of the City of Foley thank them for their efforts in providing wonderful opportunities for the youth of our community and guiding them toward a successful future.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Foley, Alabama, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2022.

ATTEST:				