

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING MANDI LEALE ON BEING NAMED
STAMFORD PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S (SPEF)
2025 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, each year, the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) hosts the Excellence in Education Awards, which allows the Foundation the opportunity to recognize individuals and businesses who have demonstrated excellent service in support of Stamford education; and

WHEREAS, SPEF sought nominations from Stamford's PTOs, PFOs and PTSOs for their school's SPEF Educator Award nominees. The winner was selected by the SPEF Board of Directors based on the following four (4) criteria: (1) Enhances student learning with enrichment; (2) Embraces community collaboration by bringing outside resources into the classrooms; (3) Demonstrates a commitment to continuous professional development of self and others; (4) Exemplifies a commitment to supporting the Stamford community; and

WHEREAS, The Parent Faculty Organization, of Newfield School, submitted the nomination for Mandi Leale for the SPEF Educator Award. They noted Mrs. Leale's "exceptional dedication, leadership and impact within our own school community as well as the Stamford community at large. Mandi Leale is not merely an effective educator; she is a champion for all students. We've witnessed her remarkable ability to navigate the complexities of MTSS, pouring her energy into ensuring that every student receives equitable access in order to thrive. Newfield's effective and efficient MTSS process is a direct result of Mrs. Leale's strategic thinking and meticulous organizational skills. Beyond the vital work of MTSS, her commitment to enriching the student experience is displayed in oversight of extracurricular activities & special events."; and

WHEREAS, the nomination also listed her extensive impact on the community via her role as the after-school coordinator, where Mrs. Leale "extends ongoing outreach to the Stamford community, by continuing partnerships with local agencies: Stamford Museum and Nature Center, Bartlett Arboretum and SoundWaters. Many of these partnerships allow opportunities for students to garden, connect with nature, play soccer, chess and engage in STEAM activities" and her community involvement with co-coordination of family academic events ; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Leale "is a respected leader within our school community, fostering a collaborative and supportive atmosphere. Her communication skills are exceptional; she is always willing to listen, offer guidance and work together to develop the potential in all students. Mrs. Mandi Leale is a dedicated teacher and educator. She is an asset to Newfield and Stamford Public Schools and is truly deserving of this year's SPEF Educator Award."; and

WHEREAS, Mandi Leale, the Multi-Tiered System of Support Specialist (MTSS) at Newfield Elementary School, who was announced as the winner of the Stamford Public Education Foundation's (SPEF) 2025 Educator Award at the Excellence in Education Awards; and

WHEREAS, Mandi was selected from among 22 outstanding SPS educators who were nominated by the Parent Teacher Organizations at their schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the 31st Board of Representatives, that it congratulates Mandi Leale on being named Stamford Public Education Foundation's (SPEF) 2025 Educator of the Year.

*Approved by the 31st Board of Representatives
this 2nd day of September, 2025*

Nina Sherwood, President

Megan Cottrell, Clerk