

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING GEORGE RIGAKOS ON BEING NAMED
STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-26 TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, the 2025-26 Teacher of the Year was selected by a committee of current Stamford Public Schools teachers who evaluated all nominees as peers based on the following criteria: Outstanding Teaching, Exceptional Student Support, Exemplary Community Involvement, and Positive Influence on School Culture; and

WHEREAS, the Stamford Public Schools program mirrors the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council Program. Candidates from across the district's Pre-K through 12 schools and alternative education programs were nominated by their peers, and nominees were required to submit a biography, a statement to teaching philosophy, and essays addressing issues of educational process and policy; and

WHEREAS, candidates with the most compelling application materials were selected for in-person interviews. The strongest candidates coming out of the in-person interview phase were asked to submit a video highlighting classroom practice, classroom management, effective instruction, student engagement, and that special magic that happens when kids learn; and

WHEREAS, the committee selected Westover Magnet School Special Education teacher George Rigakos as the 2025-26 Stamford Public Schools Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rigakos was selected as his view of Stamford being a community and his philosophy is to cultivate that community through teaching. Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools stated "the selection of Mr. Rigakos as Teacher of the Year speaks volumes about the respect and admiration he has earned from his peers within the Stamford Public Schools community; his commitment to fostering growth, celebrating unique abilities, and creating inclusive learning environments has touched the lives of countless students. This award underscores the profound difference one individual's commitment can make in the lives of students"; and

WHEREAS, Westover Magnet School Principal Lisa Saba-Price said "Mr. Rigakos is an outstanding educator whose impact resonates throughout our entire school community; he builds genuine connections with students, staff, and families alike, and because of that, his influence is felt everywhere. I couldn't be prouder to have George as a part of our Westover community".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the 31st Board of Representatives, that it congratulates George Rigakos on being named Stamford Public Schools 2025-26 Teacher of the Year.

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

Nina Sherwood, President

Megan Cottrell, Clerk