

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION  
CONGRATULATING BUILDON ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF PROVIDING GLOBAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS  
AND SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS**, buildOn, a non-profit organization that builds schools in developing countries while also running afterschool service programs in America's toughest inner-cities, was started 25 years ago by Jim Ziolkowski; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ziolkowski was inspired to create buildOn when he was in the Himalayas in 1989; after several months of witnessing the immense suffering caused by extreme poverty, he came upon a village in Nepal that was in the midst of a two-day celebration for the opening of a school and saw the hope and courage of a community revolving around education; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1992, buildOn built its first school in Malawi, and Mr. Ziolkowski realized, after contracting malaria, that extreme poverty made urgent health care inaccessible and that education was the first step out of extreme poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, for the past 25 years buildOn has run Programs for high school students for more than 2,500 students weekly in the nation's lowest performing schools through three activities; service in their own communities, education and building schools in some of the poorest countries in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2010 study by Brandeis University noted that buildOn Service Learning Program provides positive outcomes to members, including improved academic engagement, improved attendance, belief in one's ability to effect change, empowerment and an expanded sense of possibility; and

**WHEREAS**, for the past 25 years buildOn has also run a Global School Construction Program to provide education to rural communities by working with villages in some of the poorest countries in the world to build 912 schools; buildOn is currently building schools in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Senegal and buildOn's agreement with each village ensures that girls are sent to school in equal numbers with boys and that women have access to adult education; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2010 study by the Academy for Educational Development (AED) noted that the Global School Construction Program has significantly increased access to and quality of education and have inspired communities to send their children to school.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 29<sup>th</sup> Stamford Board of Representatives congratulates buildOn on its 25 years of providing global school construction programs and service learning programs

*Approved by the 29<sup>th</sup> Board of Representatives  
This 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2016*

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Randall M. Skigen, President

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Annie M. Summerville, Clerk