

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING MARITZA NUÑEZ OF STARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON
BEING NAMED
THE 2024-25 STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, Maritza Nuñez, a paraeducator at Stark Elementary School, was selected from among 69 nominations as the Stamford Public Schools 2024-25 Paraeducator of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Maritza Nuñez began working with children as a Sunday school teacher at her church and was inspired to become a paraeducator after her own children's experiences at Stark School, and upon the encouragement of the principal, Dr. Mary Savage; and

WHEREAS, Maritza Nuñez has served SPS students for almost 23 years, starting at Stillmeadow school as a special education paraeducator and then transferring to Stark Elementary School, where she has worked as a Kindergarten paraeducator; and

WHEREAS, Maritza Nuñez was nominated by multiple peers who noted her "tireless efforts to not only support students academically but also nurture [] their creativity and sense of belonging, " and who has been described as "a shining example of someone who truly embodies student-centered teaching and learning"; and

WHEREAS, Maritza Nuñez noted that being a paraeducator has given her the opportunity to foster her creativity in a variety of ways; for example she and another paraeducator started a "Kids Crafting Kindness" afterschool club to teach children what kindness looks like, while giving them the chance to show kindness to others through creativity; and

WHEREAS, Stark School Principal Jennifer DeRubeis commented on the award "Maritza's dedication makes a profound difference in the lives of our students each and every day. We thank Maritza for her tireless commitment to education and for being an inspiration to us all;"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 31st Board of Representatives congratulates Maritza Nuñez on being named 2024-2025 Stamford Paraeducator of the Year.

*Approved by the 31st Board of Representatives
this 3rd day of June, 2024*

Jeff Curtis, President

Megan Cottrell, Clerk