

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING THE VILLA MARIA SCHOOL
ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, on February 8, 1947, the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters purchased 15 acres of land in Stamford containing a mansion and a carriage house once owned by the playwright Henry Miller, using the mansion was used as a retreat center and a provincial house, and

WHEREAS, in 1962 the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters opened the Villa Maria Education Center as a private, non-profit, tutorial and enrichment school for students in the Stamford area, converting the four bedrooms, living room and kitchen in the carriage house into classrooms where students came after school and during the summer for tutoring; and

WHEREAS, in 1968 the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters purchased another two and a half acres of property, and built a school building and provincial house/convent in order to provide more space for their governing body and to accommodate the increased number of children needing remedial services; and

WHEREAS, in September, 1973, as a result of the increased needs of students and the urging of parents, the Villa Maria School was established as a full-time day school to educate students in grades 1 through 8 who were motivated to learn, but who failed to meet the demands of the curriculum of their regular classrooms; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Villa Maria School was approved by the Connecticut State Department of Education as a school for children with learning disabilities, and

WHEREAS, the Villa Maria School continued to improve and add to its facilities to address the needs of its students, including the addition of an auditorium in 1984, opening a kindergarten in 2005, adding junior high classrooms and a 9th grade in 2007, and most recently, adding a new gym and renovating the performing arts center and library in 2014; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, the Villa Maria School has grown from an after school and summer school program to become a highly well-regarded special education school, attracting students throughout Fairfield and Westchester Counties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the 31st Board of Representatives that it congratulates the Villa Maria School on its 50th Anniversary and thanks it for its service to the Stamford community.

*Approved by the 31st Board of Representatives
this 5th day of September, 2023*

Jeff Curtis, President

Megan Cottrell, Clerk