

2017-J768

Senate Resolution No. 768

BY: Senator MARCHIONE

COMMENDING the Saratoga Independent School upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary on March 24, 2017

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate the pursuit of excellence in education and service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Saratoga Independent School upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary at its 3rd Annual Spring Gala on Friday, March 24, 2017, at the Saratoga National Golf Club; and

WHEREAS, The greatest asset of any society is its children and the hope and promise they represent for the future; the Saratoga Independent School (SIS) has a proud and rich history of providing the children of Saratoga an educational foundation which is both strong and enduring; and

WHEREAS, Founded by parents in 1991, the SIS is a New York State private elementary school for children in kindergarten through grade 6; the School offers both morning and afternoon Pre-Kindergarten programs,

after-school and summer enrichment programs and aftercare; and

WHEREAS, The SIS first opened its doors to six eager students in the lower level of the Trinity Methodist Church on Ballard Road in Gansevoort, New York; by the following school year, enrollment had doubled and full-time teachers were hired; in that same year, curriculum grew to include Physical Education, Art, Music and Spanish; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, the SIS relocated to 8 Division Street to meet the growing demand for Kindergarten and Primary School students, and the school hired its first Office Administrator and Business Director; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, the SIS underwent its most extraordinary evolution to date, raising significant funds in land, gifts and pledges towards the construction of the Anderson Campus, in honor of Gail Anderson and her late husband Willard T. Anderson; and

WHEREAS, One year later, construction of Phase I of the Anderson Campus was completed, providing its students 7,700 square feet of room to learn and grow; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, the SIS began enrolling three and four-year-old students into the first multi-age preschool program in school history, located in the Arts Council Building on Broadway; and

WHEREAS, The East Wing of the Anderson Campus opened in 2010, providing space for computer, science and art labs, expansion for after school enrichment and third-party partnerships; in addition, a

Pre-Kindergarten Wrap-Around program was added, offering families a safe, nurturing and enriching environment before or after the class; and

WHEREAS, After a two-year introspective self-study, the School proudly earned New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) accreditation in 2011; and

WHEREAS, As the school continued to grow, a third Pre-Kindergarten class and a Before School Care program were added, new classroom space was constructed, three additional teachers and a Director of Operations were hired, and Felice Karlitz was named the of Director of the School; and

WHEREAS, In January of 2013, a fourth Pre-Kindergarten class was added, accommodating 11 three-year-old and four-year-old students; recognizing a need for more space and an overall vision for the campus, SIS retained the services of Collins-Scoville Arch and the L.A. Group to develop their Master Site Plan; in September of that year, an additional Kindergarten and primary class were added; and

WHEREAS, By 2014, the school building had reached capacity, and subsequently, a third primary class was added and a temporary classroom was constructed in the cafeteria; a Differentiation Support Teacher was added to the faculty, and administration was expanded to include a part-time Director of Development and Finance Manager; and

WHEREAS, As the total enrollment reached 124 students, ground was broken on a new 20,000 sq. ft. two-story academic wing in 2015; in March of 2016, two Pre-Kindergarten and two Kindergarten classes moved into the new wing; and

WHEREAS, In May of 2016, SIS completed a five-year self-study and was reaccredited by the NYSAIS accreditation committee, who were very impressed with the progress and accomplishments of this extraordinary school; and

WHEREAS, For 25 years, the Saratoga Independent School has strived to empower its students to become confident learners who are capable of critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork; the dedicated teachers and staff are committed to equipping their students with the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in an increasingly complex world, while enriching each day of their childhood; and

WHEREAS, Within the 21st Century, the Saratoga Independent School stands prepared to reach out, in earnest and enthusiastic quest of its mission, to promote the maximum growth of every student, establishing standards and building skills which will carry its students and the citizens of its community into the future; and

WHEREAS, The Saratoga Independent School is proudly aware of its distinguished past serving the families of Saratoga, eager to fulfill its present commitment to parents, students, faculty, alumni and community, and planning with vision and purpose for the ebb and swell of growth and change it will encounter in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Saratoga Independent School upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Felice Karlitz, Director, the Saratoga Independent School.