

BY: M. of A. Conrad

COMMENDING the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District upon the occasion of its designation as a 2024 Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize those outstanding school districts who dedicate their time, energy, and resources to music education and the refinement of the arts; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District upon the occasion of its designation as a 2024 Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation; and

WHEREAS, For the 14th year in a row, the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District has been designated as a Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Now in its 25th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts which demonstrate outstanding achievement for providing music access and education to all students; Ken-Ton was one of just 975 school districts across the country to receive this esteemed designation; and

WHEREAS, This impressive achievement of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District music program is in direct correlation to the unwavering attention and efforts of the dedicated music educators within the district: Phil Aguglia, Laura Anderson, Maria Aurigema, Brian Backlund, Julie Beiter, Ken Belote, Ron Bordinaro, Stephanie Cartwright, Erin Coyle, Jill Cumbo, Miranda DelBello, Karin Fryer, Lisa Hasselback, Kristin Hill, James Holden, Mike Ihde, Laura Jay, Amanda McCormick, Matthew Morris, Ciaran Kruger, Mary Kwitowski, Jessica Leary, Erin Marshall, Gabrielle Moore, Jill Neuhaus, Elizabeth Odrobina, Amanda Regan, Elizabeth Ruth, Aaron Scoccia, Patrick Towey, and Lisa Welfare; and

WHEREAS, The administrators of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District are committed to actively promoting and nurturing a comprehensive music program for all the students of the district; and

WHEREAS, Music is an extremely important part of the curriculum at all grade levels in Ken-Ton schools; music education begins in kindergarten for every student with band, chorus, and orchestra ensembles beginning in fourth grade; there are a wide variety of different band, jazz, orchestra, and vocal ensembles of varying sizes, compositions, and skill levels, as well as many music electives that students can take advantage of, including Advanced Placement and

International Baccalaureate music classes; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, many Ken-Ton music teachers are accomplished performers and routinely bring their student ensembles out into the community, performing at a variety of venues across Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Ken-Ton students and ensembles routinely perform in regional and state competitions; in recent years, hundreds of students have earned a place in All-County, Area All-State, and Conference All-State festivals, as well as other highly selective regional, national, and even international ensembles; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, numerous Ken-Ton graduates have gone on to the nation's elite music colleges and are now professional musicians; and

WHEREAS, Music education provides positive outcomes for students in many educational, cognitive, and social skills, including enhanced neural processing, conflict resolution, and teamwork; and

WHEREAS, Music faculty commit their time, passion, and hard work to the task of musical training, and to guiding music students through a successful music training journey that provides lifelong benefits for the students; and

WHEREAS, Talent, dedication, and countless hours of teaching by the music educators and practice by the student musicians have made the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District suitable for this prestigious accolade; and

WHEREAS, The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District student musicians, teachers, and the entire school community can be justifiably proud of their musical achievements and for demonstrating outstanding support for and participation in music education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District upon the occasion of its designation as a 2024 Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District.