FOUR GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AWARD

(For immediate release: Greenwich, CT - May 23, 2005). Each year PTA Council’s Special Education Services Committee acknowledges Greenwich Public School staff members with the Special Education Service Award (SES). Laurie Brehm, Alison Kistler, Barbra Re, and Susan Tracey are the recipients of this year’s SES Award. The award is presented to any employee of the school, whether they are a principal, custodian, speech therapist, paraprofessional, or teacher. The PTA Council’s mission was to provide a system for parents to become more aware of educational options for their children with learning differences or other special needs. The goal is for parents of special needs students, to become better acquainted with faculty members who are assisting their child.

In order for a Greenwich Public School employee to receive the SES Award, parents must nominate the individual. The applications are then reviewed and voted on by the SES Committee. The SES Award was created to recognize Greenwich Public School staff members who demonstrate Integrity, Vision, Leadership, and Advocacy in the service of students with special needs.

Laurie Brehm is a first grade teacher at Cos Cob Elementary School. Ms. Brehm has been a teacher in the Greenwich Public School system for the past 12 years. She majored in Early Childhood Development at Boston College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. She received her Masters Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport. At the present time she is enrolled in the Sixth Year Program
at the University of New England. At the Cos Cob School, Ms. Brehm co-created a school-based early intervention program to address all students’ needs.

Alison Kistler teaches first grade at the North Mianus Elementary School. She too has been teaching for the Greenwich Public Schools for the past 12 years. At Sacred Heart University she received her Masters Degree, where her focus of study was Reading and Special Education. Ms. Kistler joined a planning team at North Mianus School to set up an assessment scale to help all teachers manage in their classrooms.

Barbara Re is a paraprofessional at Julian Curtis Elementary School. She has been in the Educational system for the last 13 years, and has been with the Greenwich Public Schools for 5 years. She has helped students with a variety of special needs, including Language-Based Disabilities, Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities, Down’s Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADD, and ADHD.

Susan Tracey has worked in educational for 34 years, and for the past 3 years she has been employed with Greenwich Public Schools. She is currently a Special Education teacher at Western Middle School. Ms. Tracey received her Masters Degree from St. Joseph College in West Hartford, CT. At the present time she is the advisor for the Hand-in-Hand Club at Western, which pairs typical students and those with special needs to promote friendship.