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Press Release

MAYOR BARBARA SMYTH AND NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF \$36 MILLION IN HVAC IMPROVEMENTS AT SIX NORWALK SCHOOLS

State funding secured with support from the state provides approximately \$21 million in potential reimbursement

(Norwalk, Conn.) – Mayor Smyth, Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, State Rep. Dominique Johnson, Interim Superintendent Sandra Faioes, and Norwalk Public School staff joined at Naramake Elementary School to celebrate the completion of major heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements at six Norwalk schools. Approximately \$36 million was invested in school facilities, creating more comfortable, healthy, and productive learning environments for students and educators.

The projects were made possible through a special school construction funding program administered by the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services. In 2024, with the support of Connecticut Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, the State approved six Norwalk school HVAC projects with a combined budget of approximately \$36 million. At a 60 percent reimbursement rate, the State's potential reimbursement is approximately \$21 million.

The special funding program allows the City to receive reimbursement for facility repairs and replacements that otherwise would not qualify for state school construction funding. Beginning in June 2025, the City of Norwalk, Norwalk Public Schools, and individual school administrations worked collaboratively to plan and implement the improvements. All six projects were completed ahead of the start of the 2026–27 school year.

The projects included:

- **Brien McMahon High School:** Installation of new chillers and air conditioning for the gymnasium, which also serves as the City's emergency shelter.
- **Brookside Elementary School:** Replacement of existing rooftop units and installation of new air conditioning for the gymnasium.

- **Marvin Elementary School:** Replacement of all rooftop units and installation of new air conditioning for the gymnasium.
- **Silvermine Dual Language Magnet School:** Installation of new boilers, an upgraded building management system and air conditioning for the gymnasium.
- **Naramake Elementary School:** Installation of air conditioning throughout the school.
- **Rowayton Elementary School:** Installation of new boilers and air conditioning throughout the school.

The improvements included the installation, replacement and upgrading of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, as well as other improvements designed to enhance indoor air quality. The projects will help schools better maintain comfortable learning environments during periods of extreme heat and cold, while improving the overall experience for students, teachers and staff.

“These investments are about much more than new equipment—they are about creating the conditions our students and educators need to succeed,” said Mayor Barbara C. Smyth. “Our schools are some of the most important buildings in our city, and we have a responsibility to make sure they are safe, comfortable and equipped to support learning. I am grateful to our partners at Norwalk Public Schools, our school administrators, our project teams and the State of Connecticut, and especially Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, for helping make these significant improvements possible.”

“Providing students and educators with safe, healthy and comfortable learning environments is essential to student success,” said Interim Superintendent of Schools Sandra Faioes. “These HVAC improvements represent a significant investment in our schools and our students. We are grateful to the City of Norwalk and our state partners for their collaboration and commitment to improving our school facilities.”

“Investing in our schools is one of the most important things we can do for the future of Norwalk,” said Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff. “This program allowed Norwalk to address critical HVAC needs while maximizing state reimbursement and making sure these improvements could be completed before the start of the new school year. I am proud to have supported these projects and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on students, teachers and staff for years to come.”

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