



## President's Column

Recent events within our school community and the larger Penfield community have left us shocked and saddened. Some of our colleagues have experienced tragic personal loss, and our community has united in shared grief, mourning the loss of young lives, contemplating the depth of loss, and offering our deepest sympathy to those who are suffering. It is in times like these that we come together to support one another and to lend a helping hand. It is also a time when our thoughts turn to what is truly important—our families and friends both far and near.

This month I am writing an abbreviated column to share brief updates on important topics that we have been dealing with during this past month. These topics will be treated at length in our regular issue of the January *Broadside*.

- **District Audit:** We are still gathering information from NYSUT regarding the findings from our district audit. Brian Bennett from NYSUT is working with Jon Hickey to analyze the audit information. The bottom line is that the District is in good financial standing, and this information will be important to us as we move into our negotiations. The PEA has some concerns regarding transparency issues. The PEA will have an official response to the findings in January.
- **Social Media:** As you may be aware, some teachers at Bay Trail have been targeted on social media with scurrilous attacks. The District Office has been informed about these attacks, and we are working together to explore all aspects of this issue, including legal options to protect our teachers. One thing is certain: attacks on teachers via social media are unacceptable.

- Governor Cuomo's Address: The Governor will address the state on January 13, 2016. No doubt, his new and revised education policy will be discussed. Through the activism of NYSUT and our local unions, changes have occurred in the Governor's original proposals which dealt a heavy blow to New York's students and teachers. Those of us who marched in freezing February weather did not march in vain! Many thanks to those who wrote or emailed our legislators or filled out opinion surveys. Our collective voice could not be ignored!
- Retirement Notification: **Those of you contemplating retirement this year are asked to inform the District Office of your decision by January 15, 2016.** Please contact Ms. Gregory before that date if you have any questions.

We will take a closer look at these topics in our January *Broadside*. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Until then, my best wishes for the holidays and may the coming year bring each of us what we need, be it comfort, solace, renewed strength, contentment, or happiness. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

In solidarity, we are union strong.

Bob Young

