



BROADSIDE

OCTOBER 2016



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This month's column will be brief and to the point. I have some important information to share with you regarding our contract negotiations. I made a campaign promise to the membership that I would be transparent with the dealings of the PEA. I fully intend to provide you with any information I am legally allowed to share regarding negotiations preparation or negotiations themselves.

On Monday of this week, a meeting was held between representatives from the district office and representatives from the PEA. The purpose of the meeting was to share with the district some of the data that we have collected in preparation for our negotiations. Attending the meeting were Tom Putnam, Barbara Gregory, Mark Sansouci, Bill Maloney (District Treasurer), Mike Geraci (BT), and me.

At the end of last year, I asked Mike Geraci to gather some specific data which might prove to be helpful in making our case to the district. Mike went above and beyond my original request, and we developed a presentation highlighting not only contract information from our neighboring districts, but property values, socio-economic statistics, comparison analyses, and recognition of outstanding performance by Penfield schools. Our data is irrefutable. I asked Mike to be present when I communicated the information to the district. Let me be clear: This meeting was not a negotiations meeting. It was purely an informational meeting. My purpose in calling for this meeting was to be transparent and clear with the district. I wanted to gather all of the stakeholders in one room to hear the PEA message loud and clear. We want the district to know that the PEA has done its homework, and we are prepared to state our case.

This round of contract negotiations will be unlike those of the past. The lack of a respectful district/PEA relationship has hurt us in previous negotiations. The PEA has worked very hard to rebuild a collegial relationship with the district. We will negotiate from a position of strength and preparedness. We have left no stone unturned, and the PEA will not be blindsided.

On Tuesday of this week, I submitted a formal request to the district to open negotiations earlier than January (our originally scheduled date). I feel confident enough to move forward now rather than later. I do not anticipate that there will be opposition from the district in this regard. I will let you know what the district's response is.

I will be attending all November PEA meetings to answer questions regarding our progress. I have heard the concerns of PEA members who feel they have not been adequately informed of our negotiations strategy and progress in the past. I will not allow that to be the case this time around. If at any point in this process you would like to have more information, please do not hesitate to contact me, and I will answer any question that I can.

We are still looking for a person who would be willing to set up an on-line "forum" so PEA members who would like to talk about the upcoming contract proposal will be able to do so. Again, I have heard the concerns of many PEA members who felt that they were not able to communicate with other colleagues regarding the last contract proposal. A "forum" of some type would allow for conversations to take place (among PEA members only) via a secure and confidential platform. If you possess the skills and expertise to bring this about, we would like to hear from you.

We are also still seeking a permanent *Broadside* editor. Please contact Mary Bostwick (BT) if interested, or contact me directly.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming PEA meetings in November. Thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of our district's students. It is hard to believe that the end of the first marking period is right around the corner.

Together, we are UNION STRONG.

Bob Young

PEA President





DO NOT give your email or passwords to anyone you do not know. We receive “phishing” warnings from Ed Turkowski frequently regarding this issue. Opening infected sites or relaying personal information over the school computer is very serious. Please take a moment and be sure of the veracity of a request for information. This is a case where it is much better to be safe than sorry!

Pledge to Vote

Russ Byer, PEA Vice-President

Voting is our opportunity to fight back and defend our rights, our profession, and our future. This election, perhaps more than any election in recent memory, is of critical importance to all Americans. While we all make choices based on our individual beliefs and values, NYSUT, AFT, and NEA all endorse candidates whom they believe are best prepared and willing to support the educational stances which will best serve us as educators. These groups are non-partisan and will endorse candidates regardless of party affiliation. NYSUT, for example, holds an endorsement conference each year to solicit feedback from local presidents and delegates. This conference makes recommendations to the Board of Directors whether or not to endorse a candidate. The list of endorsed candidates is for your information only. You are encouraged to do your own research on the candidates if you have questions. Remember that the only vote wasted is the one not cast. Please vote on November 8!



NYSUT/AFT/NEA Endorsements 2016

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine (D)

US SENATE

Chuck Schumer (D)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

23rd John Plumb (D)
24th Colleen Deacon (D)
25th Louise Slaughter (D)
26th Brian Higgins (D)

NYS SENATE

53rd David Valesky (D)
54th No Endorsement
55th Rich Funke (R/C)
56th Joseph Robach (R/C)
57th Catherine Young (R/C)
58th Leslie Danks-Burke (D)
59th Patrick Gallivan (R/C)
60th Amber Small (D)
61st No Endorsement
62nd Robert Ort (R/C)

NYS ASSEMBLY

130th Robert Oaks (R/C)
131st Brian Kolb (R/C)
132nd Phil Palmesano
133rd No Endorsement
134th Peter Lawrence (R/C)
135th Mark Johns (R/C)
136th Joseph Morelle (D)
137th No Endorsement
138th Harry Bronson (D)
139th No Endorsement

