

Hudson Teachers' Association

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Emily Goldstein

HHS

Justin Cukerstein
Valerie Spensieri

Negotiations Committee

Melissa Brown, JLE
Terry Ohl, JLE
Lisa Dwyer, JH
Jen Clark, JH
Chuck Peters, JH
Mike Antonelli, HS
Justin Cukerstein, HS

A Letter from the President

by Jack Beyer

Dear HTA Members,

The Negotiations team has been trying to finalize contract negotiations but at every turn the District is holding up the process. The documentation that has been promised to you has been in pieces and not turned over in a timely manner. We have been working diligently to get all of the correct information to you as soon as we can.

Politically there are bills in the New York State Assembly and Senate concerning the APPR process. Please contact your assembly and senators on the following bills:

[Assembly Bill 09461-Senate Bill 07632](#)

This bill removes the financial consequences to schools that do not adopt the new teacher evaluation plan 3012-d

[Assembly Bill 10057- Senate Bill 07463](#)

This Bill would immediately decouple teacher evaluations from the test scores

[Assembly Bill 10056-Senate Bill 07462](#)

This Bill would repeal state takeover of failing schools and puts the school reform process back in the hands of local educators and parents who understand the specific needs of their schools district.

Governor Andrew Cuomo (518) 474 8390
Assembly Education Chair Catherine Nolan (518)455 4851
Speaker Carl Heastie (518) 455-3791
Senate Education Chair Carl Marcellino: (518) 455-2390
Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan (518) 455-2071
Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins: (518)455- 2585
Senate Coalition & IDC Leader Jeffrey Klein: (518) 455-3595

Contract Corner

You should be receiving your copy of the MOA and the proposed contract on June 6th or 7th.

Please submit all questions you may have to Jack Beyer via email.

The answer/information session as well as the vote will be on Monday, June 13th.

Greetings HTA,

I want to take this opportunity to let everyone know what an honor it has been to serve you this past year. It has been an incredible learning opportunity even with the personal and professional tragedies that occurred. It was always my intention to put forth 110% effort towards solving whatever issue came across my desk. I realized quite early that not being a part of the "team" and having a different point of perspective was going to be a challenge in and of itself. Still, the helpful advice and those with years of knowledge, encouraged me to move forward. I extend my sincere thanks to those who were my support during this past year; Jennifer Clark, Lucy Rees, Kim Keeler, Justin Cukerstein, Valerie Spensieri, Anna Barletta, and Carey Ann Daniel, just to name a few. If I could relay one thing to the HTA membership, it would be that this is your union. Being actively involved in the fundraisers, the general meetings and the conversation itself of how best we can work together to make our school district one of the most respected districts in the state, to me is the whole point. It is not an easy job, this teaching profession we are in. Whether you are in the classroom or are working in supportive areas, we all need to be working towards the same goal as a team. Individual agendas do not make a union. Thank you again to those who gave me this opportunity to serve the HTA.

Liz Novine

Poet Dave Johnson Visits Classrooms

by Theresa Cipollari

Poet Dave Johnson, author of *Baptized to The Bone*, *Marble Shoot* and *Sister, Cousin, Aunt*, visited classes this spring. He spent April 11 at the high school and worked with students on rewriting lines from Shakespeare's works. Students made the verses their own and used them to write short raps. They shared their work with others and thoroughly enjoyed using Shakespeare creatively. On May 9th, Dave visited English 7 & 8 classrooms. Students picked a picture and wrote poems about the scenes. They shared their work with one another and thought creatively, making the chosen images their own. Dave's visit was funded by the Millay Colony. He works with inner-city youth in New York City. His plays have been performed in the United States and Italy. We are hoping to arrange more creative workshops for our students in the future. For more information on Dave, visit davejohnsonpoetry.com.



Spanish Exchange Trip

by Mrs. Gazzera

We are the Spanish exchange students of 2016. We left USA on April 21, 2016. We arrived in Paris, France on April 22, 2016. We stayed in a very beautiful hotel. We went to the Eiffel Tower, then the next day we went to Notre Dame Church. We saw many historical monuments and buildings. On the third day we went to Napoleon's Tomb. Before we went into the tomb there was a museum that you had to enter first. We saw European weapons and armor from the medieval era to modern times. The last day we went to the Louvre. At the Louvre we saw many types of beautiful and historical paintings like the Monalisa .We also took a beautiful cruise on the Seine river. We then took off to go to Madrid, Spain.

When we arrived in Madrid, Spain, we met our exchange family and the directors of the program. The families took each student that they were hosting to their home. We learned about the Spanish culture in the home. We went to the school the next day and found their educational system to be very different from America. Their school layout and the way they operate is different. We went to the capital city of Madrid and went to the royal family Palace. After, we went to another city called Toledo. Both cities were beautiful. The other days we spent with the host families and they helped us improve on our Spanish language. They also took us to other parts of Spain. When we got back from Spain, a week later the Spanish students arrived in America. We showed them how the American culture operates and how it is different from Spain. The students enjoyed every moment of America. When they left to go back to Spain we felt we were saying goodbye to a part of our family. We now know that we just made a long life friend.



JLE & MC Smith Dates to Remember

1st grade- Wednesday June 8th
 9am- Barnes, Cordato, Groat
 10am- Brown, Duryea, LaPorto, Rolfe

2nd grade Moving Up Ceremony
 Thursday June 16th at 9:30 am
 @MCSIS auditorium.

Awards Ceremonies: 3rd grade ~ Monday June 20th @ 9am
 4th grade ~ Tuesday, June 21st @ 9am

Moving Up Ceremonies: 5th grade ~ Wednesday, June 22nd @ 8:30am
 6th grade ~ Thursday, June 23rd @ 8:30am

2016 NYSUT endorsement conference approaches!

For years people have asked me how does NYSUT decide who to endorse for state senate, assembly, Governor, or US senate or congress, and why do they only support democrats? Well first, NYSUT does not only endorse Democrats for office. They have endorsed republicans such as Chris Gibson and many republicans across NYS. If you look at the biannual list of endorsees that all union members receive just before election time you will see this to be true.

Second, every two years in the month of July NYSUT hold an endorsement conference in Albany to discuss who they should endorse in each race, if anyone at all. The conference is made up of NYSUT board of directors, which includes the NYSUT officers, members of NYSUT legislation, Regional PAC (political action coordinators), regional VOTE COPE coordinators and local presidents from across NYS. Prior to the conference all incumbents and challengers are invited by representatives from NYSUT to be interviewed. Based on the candidates' views of public education and the incumbents voting record on bills important to public education the committee will make decisions on who is the best candidates running for office to endorse.

WHY HILLARY?

At the September 2015 ED 13 meeting we were updated on AFT and NEA's process for endorsing a presidential candidate. In August of 2015 both organizations invited all 17 Republican candidates and all 3 Democratic candidates that at that time tossed their hat in the ring to run for President of the United States to be interviewed. The only two candidates, who took time from their busy schedules to meet with both teacher unions, were Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Shortly after this process Hillary was given the endorsement

Wayne Kinney

2nd Vice President



CURRENT 2016 VOTE COPE DRIVE NUMBERS

Contribution amount

By pay roll: \$1 \$1.50 \$2 \$2.50 \$3 \$4 \$5 \$10

TOTALS 26 2 90 1 11 2 2 2 136 out of 184 (74%)

Estimated Total payroll contributions: \$5797

Check contributions: 9 members totaling \$230

Overall Estimated total: \$6027

40% estimated return to the HTA=\$2410.80 in 2 installments of \$1205.40

Total Members contributing 145 out of 184 (79%)

SEVEN REASONS TO SUPPORT VOTE COPE!

The HTAS 40 % VOTE COPE rebate can be used for:

1. Funding expenditures for school budgets or similar ballot issues
2. Internal communications with members of the local (not the public)
3. Defraying cost of attending NYSUT conferences or conventions (i.e. legislative luncheon, committee of 100 and the representative assembly or RA)
4. Purchasing equipment or supplies for the local
5. Reimbursing employer for release time for political action
6. Providing refreshments for political action volunteers
7. Running a VOTE-COPE drive





Save with **NYSUT Member Benefits**

The NYSUT membership is made up of a variety of diverse professionals within the education and health care industries -- joining together in support of those who depend on them. We salute these men and women for their dedication and the sacrifices they make on a daily basis to help improve the lives of others.

And we are proud to offer you -- the hard-working NYSUT member -- an opportunity to participate in the more than 40 endorsed programs & services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Look to Member Benefits for crucial insurance programs such as auto, homeowners, life, disability, or long-term care insurance. Member Benefits also offers a variety of travel, entertainment & shopping options to help you with everything from daily purchases to those special once-in-a-lifetime excursions.

The following is just a sampling of the endorsed programs & services available to NYSUT members & their families:

- Homeowners Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Legal Service Plan
- Financial Counseling Program
- Life Insurance
- Vision Plan
- ID Watchdog
- PayCheck Direct
- Car & Truck Rentals
- Wyndham Hotels
- Endless Vacation Rentals
- Buyer's Edge, Inc.



To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit **memberbenefits.nysut.org** or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.