President’s Message

Results from the APPR vote are in and it was passed by our membership with 96% voting in favor of the document. The next step will be BOE ratification and approval from NYSED.

Big news last night regarding the passage of a bill regarding the release of teacher evaluations. I still haven’t read the final details of the bill since facing Senate revisions from the earlier draft yesterday, but I have included statements from people who supported us (NYSUT see box below) and a quote from a group that is opposed to our union’s stance on protecting teachers’ privacy rights (see quote in red).

I still need to analyze exactly what limited information will be available to parents and will let you know exactly what that entails, but I certainly like the fact that opposition groups hail it as a major victory for us.

Have a great summer - Jason Carter

From a group that does not support our stance: “Teacher evaluations will be kept secret from most taxpayers after state lawmaker's overwhelmingly passed Gov. Cuomo's bill Thursday, giving a major victory to teachers unions, who opposed wider disclosure of the appraisals. Without the bill, all evaluations for teachers and principals would be public, based on a court decision.”

ALBANY, N.Y., June 21, 2012 (From NYSUT Media Relations) - New York State United Teachers President Richard C. Iannuzzi said today that the privacy bill passed by both houses of the state Legislature accomplishes two important goals: It stops the shameless media exploitation and distortion of evaluation information, and it appropriately keeps teacher personnel records confidential.

The governor's bill also permits parents – and parents only – to request limited composite information concerning their child's current teacher(s). "The governor and Legislature did the right thing by stopping the media from distorting and disseminating evaluation results," Iannuzzi said. "This bill accomplishes that goal and preserves the purpose of evaluations, which is to provide opportunity for continued growth and improvement." Passage by the Senate and Assembly - and the governor's expected signature - marks an advance for teachers and parents, and reinforces that a quality evaluation system must be dedicated to promoting student learning," Iannuzzi said.

Iannuzzi thanked the governor for initiating the legislation and the Legislature for acting to pass it, noting the bill "reinforces the bedrock principle that accountability does not equate with public servants being shamed and humiliated in the press."

Iannuzzi said the bill acknowledges the important partnership between parents and teachers in helping children to learn, "We believe this legislation, if applied correctly, will be fair to teachers, parents and students. It has potential to serve as one more piece of information in a comprehensive process where parents and educators, working together, can ensure that all students have a quality education."
As editor of Wayne’s World, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the 5 WTA Members who worked so hard, and put in countless hours as part of the APPR Committee that created this document. Your dedication to the staff and students of Wayne Central commendable. (Monica Bays, Jen Cotton, Michele Farley, Sarah Francis, and Betsy Hennessy)

**The 3 R’s: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!**

**Dates to Remember:**
- Monday June 11th — Executive Council
- Wednesday June 20th Last Day for Students
- Friday June 22nd - Last Day for Staff!

**Issues Currently Being Discussed/Explored**
- APPR Document Finalization
- Transfer Finalization
- Summer Curriculum Writing
- Assessments
- State Mandates… Will we be ready?

**A Quote from Me**

Summer is here and it is time to relax, and enjoy. Make sure that you not only leave foot prints in the sand this summer, but leave some bottom prints too. Take time to sit, relax and enjoy the beauty of your happy place!

When NYSED finally adopts a Value-Added measure for the APPR, what will happen to the points for the three APPR subcomponents (State Growth, Local Achievement, Other Measures of Effectiveness)?

Contact Jeff Trout with the correct answer will receive a $10 Wegmans Gift Card.

585-454-5550
jtrout@nysutmail.org

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**Trivia**

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**Acronym of the Month**

**What is PARCC anyway?**

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers is a group of states committed to building a next-generation assessment system. New York is a Governing State in the PARCC Consortium. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a consortium of states working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers. These new K-12 assessments will build a pathway to college and career readiness by the end of high school, mark students’ progress toward this goal from 3rd grade up, and provide teachers with timely information to inform instruction and provide student support. The PARCC assessments will be ready for states to administer during the 2014-15 school year. Let’s Hope they can get it right by then!

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**Congratulations**

On April 17th Lindsay O'Brien and her husband Tim are the proud new parents to a little girl named Kailin Marie O'Brien who weighed 7lbs 13 oz.

Also, from OE, Melissa Maracle and her husband Dustin welcomed their new little baby girl Mia Ann Maracle on May 23rd. She weighed 7lbs. 12 oz.

Congratulations to Kristina Stiles for correctly answering the May’s Trivia Question!
The final APPR document with clickable links and index page will be e-mailed out to all WTA members as soon as it is approved by the NYSED.

NYSUT’s Endorsements for Congress; Primaries June 26
Below is the list of NYSUT 2012 Endorsements for the New York Congressional Delegation.

Said Exec VP Andy Pallotta: "These are the candidates we will work very hard to elect to Congress. ... I encourage you to mobilize and motivate members to get behind these candidates as early as possible."

United States Senate
Kirsten Gillibrand

House of Representatives
Dan Maffei

NEWS FROM NYSUT

Chancellor Tisch condemns testing mistakes, but results will still count
The furor over the state’s ELA and math assessments continued this week as SED acknowledged even more mistakes: There were 20 translation errors on the foreign-language versions of state math tests. Pearson, in its first year of a $32 million five-year contract, was already under fire for a reading passage about a talking pineapple and numerous other questions that had to be thrown out. Click here for SED’s most recent scoring guide to see the testing gaffes.

Meanwhile, NYSUT has forwarded a formal letter and a copy of the RA resolution "Student Assessment: Getting it Right" to the Regents. In the resolution, delegates call for the state to scrap its current testing system and place less focus on questionable standardized tests. To help make the case, NYSUT is seeking feedback from members. We're analyzing results from phone surveys just completed by NYSUT’s calling center and will share results shortly. We have also set up an online feedback link for both the math and ELA state assessments. Click here for a sampling of some of the news reports.

NYSUT leaders, practitioners speak up on testing
In testimony Monday, NYSUT officers Andy Pallotta and Maria Neira addressed "The Evolution of Student Assessment: Where we started; where we are; and where we should be going." The NYSUT officers were joined at a legislative hearing by three teachers, Hillary Llewellyn-Southern, an eighth-grade teacher in Schenectady; and June Fox and Heidi Sabatino, both middle school teachers in Albany.

Together they called for a more balanced approach on testing that relies on authentic performance assessments developed by teachers to measure the learning of all students. They also submitted a copy of the comprehensive resolution approved at the RA, plus results from member polling and surveys. Here's the text of the NYSUT statement and a report on what the teachers said. Here also is NYSUT’s news release summarizing the message.

NYSUT has endorsed the Educate NY Now! campaign and urges local unions to do the same. Here's the link to a form
Patricia Thomas, Elementary teacher, retiring after 24 years in the WCSD.

Pat taught 10 years at OE, prior to teaching first and second grade at OP for the past 14 years. Her passion for teaching and learning will always be appreciated by her coworkers. Pat also instilled her love of poetry in all her students over the years. She will begin retirement with her youngest son’s wedding in NYC on June 29, 2012. She looks forward to spending time with her three grandchildren (6 year old twins and their 3 year old brother). Her plans also include renovating and spending time at her cottage, on Seneca Lake, with her husband. Best of luck in this new chapter of your life Pat!

Also retiring this year, but their bios didn’t make it in time for this print issue and will be in the September issue are:

Carol Genzken, Alan Etkin, Velta Zadins