I recently almost had the opportunity to testify at Governor Cuomo’s Education Reform Commission. The almost part is because the 3 hour time limit for the most recent hearing ran out right before I was called up to testify. While the logo of this commission and the Governor is “Putting Students First” I think a more suitable name based on some of his actions in education might be “Putting Myself First”, as he prepares and positions for a Presidential run in 2016.

While I didn’t get to give oral testimony the commission did receive a written copy of my testimony. The focus of which focused on 2 components state aid funding and the new APPR regulations.

Under the APPR regulations we gave SLO assessments during the first few weeks of school. These assessments do nothing to enhance student learning. For example the chemistry assessment that the students took covered topics on the entire school year, only 8 kids received a score even in the single digits. Students were frustrated by both being forced to sit through a demoralizing assessment they had no chance of passing and the loss of their instructional time. This loss of learning potential goes beyond just physically having the students take the assessments, teacher planning time is lost to score assessments, because test mods are given and our school districts do not have the resources to administer - special education, reading teachers, and other support staff are taking away from the students who need their services the most, to administer these tests that provide no real instruction purpose other than attempting to label a teacher.

The message from NYSUT is clear:

- Stop the obsession with standardized testing!
- Invest in student learning, not testing!
- Devote time and resources to getting evaluations and common core right!

At every opportunity, NYSUT reiterates this message to education policymakers. Now you can add your individual voice about students, school, district or campus. Use this NYSUT-developed email form to speak up and speak out to the State Education Commissioner and Board of Regents. Tell them:

1. How current teaching and learning conditions and obsession with testing impacts your students’ success.
2. What needs to be done to get student assessment and teacher evaluation right.

Please take the time to visit the website and submit your comments around all of the testing under the new APPR and its impacts on learning.

Sincerely,
Jason Carter

www.nysut.org/tellit
## The 3 R’s: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

### Dates to Remember:

- **November 6th** - VOTE!
- **November 5th** Rep Council Meeting 3:45
- **November 21st** Professional Development Day

### Issues Currently Being Discussed/Explored

- Concerns about last minute staff changes
- PTC concerns were shared
- APPR: plan was rejected by the state. The committee is meeting again to discuss and revise the plan. There will be a revote on the APPR.
- Negotiations have begun

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Members of all ages should be reviewing and planning for their retirement. One way to do this is to attend a NYSTRS Pension & Retirement Education Program (PREP) seminar. For information on the summer seminars (dates, locations and topics), please visit: [http://www.nystrs.org/main/retirement-planning/preplan-seminars.htm](http://www.nystrs.org/main/retirement-planning/preplan-seminars.htm)

It is very easy to sign-up online through your MyNYSTRS account. You will need your EmpID (found on your Benefit Profile which you should have received in late November/early December last year) and the last four digits of your Social Security number. You can also register by calling (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6180, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

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## Congratulations and Sympathies

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**Congratulations to:**

Nicole McGarry - FE is the proud mother of a new born baby girl Evelyn Claire was born at 12:45. 8lbs, 21” long.

Kathy Walker - MS became a grandmother. She now has a beautiful grandson.

Josh Klem - MS on his recent marriage.

Erin Lincoln - MS has been selected for a Golden Apple Award. She was nominated by a 7th grade student.

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**Our Warmest Thoughts**

Our Deepest Sympathies are extended to Josh Schlageter in the loss of his dad.

Our Deepest Sympathies are extended to Tara Mateo in the loss of her father-in-law.
NYSUT asks its Members to 'Tell it Like it is!'

NYSUT has been clear in its message to the state education commissioner and Board of Regents: Stop the obsession with standardized testing, invest in student learning, and devote time and resources to getting evaluations and common core right. It's been an ongoing campaign that includes our testing resolution at the RA, NYSUT’s Getting It Right: Assessments Toolkit. We've highlighted these key issues to SED and now we are asking Members can go to www.nysut.org/tellit, the "Tell it like it is" web page, to find a letter template in which you can share views and solutions on the impact of budget cuts and testing with the state's top education policymakers. We're asking members and to take advantage of this easy-to-use communications tool to help amplify the message NYSUT leaders have delivered loudly, clearly and consistently on their behalf. Ask members to share specifics, stories from practitioners who deal with the realities every day. Tell it like it is, from the front lines of education!

Spread the word about "Share My Lesson" web site

Now, here's a real win-win proposition to tell your members about. AFT President Randi Weingarten and NY-SUT President Dick Iannuzzi met this week with Hudson Valley educators in Suffern to tell them about a free online service called "Share My Lesson."
"Share My Lesson" was launched over the summer by the AFT and TES Connect, and already has more than 250,000 resources. It's a free digital platform that allows educators around the country to collaborate, form communities and share teaching resources and innovative ideas.
All registrants who have signed up by Oct. 31 will be entered into a drawing. The grand prizewinner will receive their choice of $5,000 to be used to help pay off their student loan debt, or that of their child, or a $3,500

ELECTIONS: Look for NYSUT Election Guide in Mailboxes

NYSUT has mailed its 2012 Election Guide directly to all members. It lists endorsed candidates and highlights critical races. Urge your members to refer to this guide and be aware of what's at stake for them and their families in this pivotal election Nov.6! Voters are asking: "Who is Mitt Romney?" Check out and share this video from the NEA that provides an answer that goes beyond the ads and slogans.

NYSUT To Ed Reform Commission:
- Address Achievement Gap
- Recalibrate Timeline for Testing, Common Core and Evals
- Do it Right!
Invest the time and resources to get it right was the clear message NYSUT leaders delivered to members of the New York Education Reform Commission in testimony Thursday on Long Island. NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi and Vice President Maria Neira called for the state to stop its fixation on standardized testing and to devote the time and resources needed to implement common core learning standards and the new evaluation system.
"Our public school system simply does not have the capacity to implement all these reforms at such an unrealistic pace," Neira told commission members on Long Island. "There are not enough resources - human or otherwise - and frustration is boiling over."
Iannuzzi termed the tax cap "an educational failure," adding, to much applause, "It has hurt every district in the state. And it has disproportionately hurt those school districts that can least afford the pain."
NYSUT called for an investment in "Empire State Partnership Schools" a model designed to address the specific concerns of high needs districts.
Speaking at the most well-attended regional hearing held so far by the state commission, Iannuzzi and Neira made it clear that rich student learning experiences are being sacrificed due to the testing obsession. They called upon the commission to foster renewed trust in teachers by listening to their voices and instilling respect for the professionals...
Congratulations

30 Years of Service
Donna Corleto - Special Ed OE
Shelley Oliver - Speech OP
Tammy Scheuer - Art FE

25 Years of Service
Barbara Carlisle - Grade 6 MS
Brenda Dobbler - Speech MS
Heather Herendeen - Grade 5 OE
Sylvia Hungerford - Special Ed FE
Maureen Nagel - Spanish MS

20 Years of Service
Lisa Marlowe - Spanish HS

15 Years of Service
Julie Diffenderfer - Reading OE
Nancy Golden-Gulino - Special Ed OP
Suellen Terranova - Special Ed OE

5 Years of Service
Stacy Cougle - Media HS
Bradford Daly - Psychologist HS
Carrie Eldred - Grade 1 OP
Anne Marie Evans - Grade 2 OP
Nolan Flores - Science HS
Sharon Gruttadauria - Grade 2 FE
Joshua Harris - Spanish MS
Kathy Perconti - Music HS
Stephen Powers - Technology HS
Betsey Reynolds - Special Ed. OE
Wendy Riley - Art HS
Kim Schultz - Reading OP
Beau Watson - Art HS
Holly Wright - Special

Tenure Recognition
Scott Briggs - Social Studies HS
Michael Cox - Technology HS
Sarah Cavanaugh - Special Ed MS
Zachary Hill - Special Ed HS
Clare Morgan - Science HS
Michelle Peck - Math MS
William Thomson - Driver Ed HS
Kirsten Toscano - English HS

1 Year of Service
Steven Hout - English HS
Jessica Furber - Art MS/HS
Megan Passarell - Spanish MS
Robin Pembroke - Speech
Brian Sullivan - English HS
Christene Wolanski - Science MS

10 Years of Service
Eryne Altmire - AIS FE
Linda Bellingham - K OP
Barbara Brock - Art OE
Stephanie Collins - Speech FE/OP
Cynthia Coomber - Grade 1 OP
Philip Corleto - Counselor OE
Patricia Dombroski - Grade 5 FE
Sharon Doman - English HS
Jayson Gauthier - Technology MS
Gregory Geesler - Social Studies HS
Jill Ghysel - Grade 2 FE
Sarah Hawley - Psychologist MS
Daniel Kielon - Grade 3/4 FE
Debra Knox - Reading FE
Jacqueline Leszyk - Special Ed. HS
Erin Lincoln - Social Studies MS
Sarah Lohr - Grade 1 OP
Darlene Martino - Grade 2 FE
Tara Mateo - Health MS
Sara Moran - Music OE
Lisa Ocque - OT District
Mary Beth Rosdahl - K OP
Jacqueline Senecal - Spanish HS
Thomas Siembor - Social Studies HS
Joshua Schlager - Grade 6 MS
Shari Sohn - Grade 5 OE
Sarah Stein - Grade 2 OP
Carrie St. Pierre - Grade 3 FE
Gail Streeter - Business HS
Andrew Struzik - Social Studies HS
Amy Sullivan - K FE
Kathleen Uerz - Grade 5 OE
Kathleen Walker - Reading MS
Rebecca Walzer - Social Studies HS
Elizabeth Waring - Special Ed HS
Jennifer Weber - English HS
Julie Weller - Special Ed HS
Amber Whitney - Math HS
Jenny Wing - Social Studies MS
Megan Zipprich - Grade 5 FE

Births
Amy Gebhardt has a new son Matthew Joseph weighing in at 9lbs and measured 21.5 inches DO
Beth and Charlie Smith had a baby boy on 7/11. 7 lbs.12 oz. MS
Mike Allen and his wife, Danielle also have a new baby boy Christian, weighing in at 8 lbs. 9 oz. MS

All families are sleep deprived and doing well!

Marriages
Sarah Homer is now Mrs. Sarah Cavanaugh, MS
Michelle Girvin is now Mrs. Michelle Peck MS
Sara Francis became Mrs. Sara Callahan, MS
Colleen Meagher became Mrs. Colleen Eilertsen OP
During these tough economic times, it is more important than ever that our children here in Central New York have the best education we can give them. From pre-K through to college or trade school, our education system needs to prepare our children to compete in the world economy.

For too long we’ve been giving our kids who have just graduated college a mortgage - with no house. Instead of making education more expensive than it already is by cutting Pell Grants, we need to make it reasonable for our children to go to college. We need to work together with our great colleges and universities so Central New Yorkers can actually afford the education they deserve.
Assemblyman Mark Johns
A RECORD OF SUCCESS
A PLAN FOR MORE!

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 6
POLS OPEN 6 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

RE-ELECT
MARK
JOHNS
NYS Assembly

Elect
Ted O'Brien
State Senate

Mike Nozzolio
NYS State Senator

Re-Elect
Harry Bronson
For Assembly
Improving Educational Opportunities and Access to the Arts for All Americans

Louise has long pursued a multi-pronged effort to ensure equal access to quality education for all. This has included introducing and co-sponsoring bills to save and create jobs for hundreds of thousands of teachers, securing funding for education initiatives in the District, fighting against cuts to school lunch programs, and promoting community efforts to keep schools safe. She is deeply concerned about inequities in our school system and has pushed to increase funding for school districts with high concentrations of poverty. Louise has been a leader on student loan reform, working hard to lower interest rates on student loans and increase funding for Pell Grants keep the costs of higher education in check and affordable for all.