



# Update

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## LET THERE BE POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Is the tide of educational policy turning again? Are our politicians and those in power once again calling for a change in course? Something has changed over the past few weeks; and while it is too early to say whether the outcome will prove positive or negative, the general consensus is that it will be largely for the better.

Here are some of the changes we've been looking at and participating in:

- > 10/2/15 - Ex-NYS Education Commissioner, John King, is appointed the next U.S. Education Secretary and will be replacing Arne Duncan when he steps down in December.
- > 10/24/15 – President Obama calls for a cap on assessments so that no child would spend more than 2% of classroom instruction time taking tests. He called on Congress to “reduce over-testing” as it reauthorizes ESEA’s governance over the nation’s public elementary & secondary schools.
- > 10/26/15 - Meryl Tisch announces she will be stepping down in March when her term is completed, putting an end to her reign as the Chancellor of the NYS Regents.
- > A survey is sent out by Commissioner Elia asking for educator input on the Common Core Standards. Tell her what you think @ <http://www.nysed.gov/aimhighny>
- > Governor Cuomo creates a Common Core Task Force that is hosting dozens of regional sessions. Can't attend a regional session? Go to <http://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/research-and-educational-services/standards-survey/>, and add your comments which NYSUT VP Catalina Fortino will bring to the task force.
- > 11/5/15 - NYS Commissioner Elia sends superintendents an “Opt-Out Toolkit” in a meager attempt to ward off excessive opt-outs in the spring. This act in futility merely angered the “opt-out” parents further!
- > 11/12/15 – “Time to Move On from Common Core” a post found on NY State Senator Jack Martins’ website. Read it @ <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/jack-m-martins/desk-senator-jack-m-martins-136>; and with an email, encourage him to stay on course.
- > Within the next few weeks, the House and Senate are expected to reauthorize the ESEA (and subsequent NCLB bill) with possible positive changes in regard to equity for poor students, decoupling high-stakes associated with testing, and the elimination of AYP, among other provisions. Use your NYSUT MAC app to tell them how they can improve this country’s educational system!

Brothers and Sisters, the time to strike is now while the iron is hot and while the scent of positive change is in the air. Use the power of your pen to write an email! Use the NYSUT MAC app to send a fax! Use your phone to contact your legislators, Commissioner Elia and NYSUT! Let those of authority and influence hear you. Become part of the solution. Use your voice, your opinion, your knowledge and your educational expertise to direct the future of education and the future of your profession. **The time is now!**

In Unity,

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## Know Your **New** Contract

### **Check Your Check:**

- 2015-2016 - step + 0.5% July 1<sup>st</sup> - January 31<sup>st</sup> and 0.5% February 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>  
all coaching stipends increased by \$300
- 2016-2017 - step + 0.75% July 1<sup>st</sup>  
0.5% Schedule B (except coaching)
- 2017-2018 - step + 1.0% July 1<sup>st</sup>  
0.5% Schedule B (except coaching)

**Coverages for Productivity:** What has often been referred to as the “Monaghan letter” and past practice has now been modified and incorporated into our collective bargaining agreement. The following is a list of “paid” coverages. All others will be “unpaid” and counted toward the 39 each year. Coverages will be **paid** when used to cover for:

- ◆ a nurse
- ◆ a chairperson
- ◆ a librarian
- ◆ a substitute teacher
- ◆ a teacher grading a state assessment or Regents exam
- ◆ a teacher on National Guard or Reserve Duty
- ◆ a dean
- ◆ a teacher in charge
- ◆ a teacher on jury duty
- ◆ a teaching assistant

**Mentoring Hours and Mentor Payment:** This new language to our CBA is based on protocol followed by the District over the last few years when assigning mentoring hours to new teachers. New teachers with no prior teaching experience will receive forty (40) hours of mentoring. Any new teacher with prior experience will receive a prorated number of hours based on factors including, but not limited to, prior mentoring in a former district, length of prior teaching experience, the position of the new teacher within this district. Payment to the mentors during the year is based upon a maximum of 40 hours and is prorated as needed.

**Overnight Chaperones:** Supervisors who return from an overnight trip after 12:00 pm on a Saturday or Sunday will receive an additional \$100 chaperoning stipend for the added time.

**Split Teachers and Transfers:** New language added to this clause: Teachers who wish to volunteer for split schedules or transfers may do so by notifying their building principal by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Any resulting split or transfer shall be at the discretion of the principal receiving the volunteering teacher.

### Officers:

**President:** Rosanne Mamo (x5070)  
**Vice President:** John Koscinski (x2681)

**Treasurer:** Bart Curcio (x9326)  
**Secretary:** Jennifer Gordon-Tennant (x9223)

### Building Reps:

**ELM:** Charles Burkett (x9223), Ana Mojocoa (x9226)  
**HFC:** Pat Frino (x9431), Steve Carpaneto (x9439)  
**SEW:** Maryanne Contarino (x9639), John Reagan (x2680)

**FPM:** Tom Burke (x9332), Karen Caporale (x9308)  
**NHP:** Joe Grossi (x9525), Kevin Kowalczyk (x9531)

### Committee Chairpersons:

**Coaching:** Kevin Dolan (x9528)  
**Health & Safety:** Chris Mayer (x9430)  
**Nurse Rep:** Diane Lisi (x9574)  
**Public Relations:**  
**T.A. Rep:** Liz Marchello (x9532)

**Grievance:** Christine Plackis (x9352)  
**Internal Communication:** Chris Brustman (x9637)  
**Political Action:** Craig Barbieri (x9562), Tom Cook  
**Retiree Reps:** Maddy Maffetore, Anna Zurawinsky  
**Teacher Liaison/Vote-Cope:** John Ferrara (x9523)