

Resolution to Support the “The I Refuse Movement” to oppose High Stakes Testing

WHEREAS, the purpose of education is to educate a populace of critical thinkers who are capable of shaping a just and equitable society in order to lead good and purpose-filled lives, not solely prepare that populace for college and career; and

WHEREAS, instructional and curricular decisions should be in the hands of classroom professionals who understand the context and interests of their students; and

WHEREAS, the education of children should be grounded in developmentally appropriate practice; and

WHEREAS, high quality education requires adequate resources to provide a rich and varied course of instruction, individual and small group attention, and wrap-around services for students; and

WHEREAS, the state assessments are not transparent in that teachers and parents are not allowed to view the tests and item analysis will likely not be made available; and

WHEREAS, the assessment practices that accompany Common Core State Standards – including the political manipulation of test scores – are used as justification to label and close schools, fail students, and evaluate educators; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Sewanhaka Federation of Teachers (SFT) opposes standardized high stakes testing that is currently pushed by the Federal and State governments, because this testing is not being used to further instruction for children, to help children, or to support the educational needs of children; and be it further

RESOLVED, the SFT advocates for an engaged and socially relevant curriculum that is student-based and supported by research; and be it further

RESOLVED, the SFT will embark on internal discussions to educate and seek feedback from members regarding standardized high stakes testing and its impact on students; and be it further

RESOLVED, the SFT will lobby the NYS Board of Regents to eliminate the use of high stakes testing; and be it further

RESOLVED, the SFT will ask that all of its members have their own children refuse to take the Grade 3-8 assessments; and be it further

RESOLVED, the SFT will organize other members and affiliates to increase opposition to high stakes testing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the NY State Board of Regents, the Governor of NYS, and all members of the NYS legislative branch; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that after this resolution is passed by the SFT Executive Board, the delegates will support this resolution at the NYSUT 2016 RA.

I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by the Executive Board of the Sewanhaka Federation of Teachers at a meeting held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

Rosanne M. Mamo
SFT President
NYSUT Local #18100