

February 7, 2015

Ms. Lauren Kelly
Finger Lakes Regional Representative
NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo

Dear Lauren Kelly:

You were missed at our Monroe County School Boards Association Legislative breakfast. We want to take this opportunity to inform you about the following concerns. (We have also enclosed a packet of information for your review.)

Here are the points we would have made at our table:

1. We would like the Governor to acknowledge the high performing school districts in our area and invite him to visit ANY of our schools at ANY time to observe successful public schools at work.
2. We have been mandated to assess teachers primarily on tests (60/20/20) that you now dismiss as invalid (the Governor's words, "baloney"). And now your suggested mandate of "50/50" will not only harm the education profession but will relegate all K-8 Special Education Teachers to an "ineffective" rating. Subsequently, this will create an unacceptable turnover rate of Special Education Teachers which will harm our neediest students.
3. In Monroe County the average graduation rate of the school districts is 89.7%. This includes the Rochester City School district. To ensure this continued success in the schools:
 - Suspend the Gap Elimination Adjustment
 - Fully fund All Day Kindergarten and Pre-K
 - Fully fund Preschool Special Education
4. Either rescind the Tax Cap or fulfill your promise of mandate relief to schools as part of the Tax Cap Law. Equally as important, do not alter the current STAR reimbursement program!

Please know, we are personally and professionally offended by your daily attack on NYS Public Education.

Respectfully,

Barbara Babiarz, Penfield BOE

Suzanne Casey, Webster BOE

Lisa Benati-Chidsey, Penfield BOE

Jeff Crane, West Irondequoit Superintendent

Colette Morabito, East Rochester BOE