

Good Evening Members of the Board and Superintendent Achramovitch,

AGCEP's three NYSUT delegates, Maureen Close, Marilyn Horton and I attended the Representative Assembly that was held in Buffalo last week. We listened to several speakers such as Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Buffalo's mayor Byron Brown, Commissioner Mills from the State Education Department, Tom DiNapoli the NYS Comptroller, and local state legislators. They all spoke about the economic challenges that New York State faces and also about the hope that remains.

THAT HOPE IS THE EDUCATION OF NEW YORK'S STUDENTS! Every speaker made a point of informing us that a clear and concise distinction has been made that the funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are intended to preserve jobs and programs to provide a quality education to every child. It is not intended to be directed toward tax relief. The State Education Department is adamant that they will be holding Districts accountable for the way the stimulus is being used.

If we do what we've always done we will get what we've always got. Reform must be done **WITH** the employees, not **TO** them. They are an essential key to successful education. Every employee - bus drivers, teaching assistants, job training specialists, nurses, monitors, clerical staff, administrators, child care associates, custodians, security, facility workers, and teachers - make a difference in our student's academic progress and the efficiency in which the District is run.

We realize that you, Superintendent Achramovitch and members of the Board are working hard to keep the opportunities for a quality education in the Greece community. That quality is as diversified as our student body. As you work together to finalize the 2009-2010 Greece school budget you must remember that there is no pathway to success without a high school diploma. The economy

and education are interlocked. You must say “yes.” Our children need you to make a difference where it counts the most. From early childhood education to higher education we must ensure that our kids get their chance. I don’t believe that there is a parent in this community that will not support a budget that secures the funds for programs and staff that offer the opportunities that help them grow academically and socially and helps them achieve to the best of their abilities. If they miss it now they will never get it back.

Thank You.

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