

Good Evening Members of the Board and Superintendent Achramovitch,

Each year AGCEP accepts nominations for their annual Golden Heart & Hands award. The purpose of this award is to honor a support staff member that maintains a positive attitude towards students and co-workers and also motivates and inspires them, contributes selflessly as a team member, and contributes above and beyond in the district and the community. If you work with or know a support staff member that you feel fits the criteria a 2009 nomination form is available at each school's main office, the Town of Greece Community Center or on the AGCEP website.

AGCEP usually likes to address the Board Of Education with the positive aspects of support staff activities within the District and community. Unfortunately, at this time we have some real concerns regarding the staff cuts for 2009-2010. Specific support staff members, along with teachers, have been informed that their positions will be cut in their building next year. This has caused intense anxiety in members who are dependent on their salary and their health insurance.

Retirements, resignations, seniority and final enrollment figures are all part of the staffing process. AGCEP wonders why the District is making these announcements before there is definite information to share with members about their seniority status. A promise of receiving that information has not been kept. The lack of information, such as a list of the recommended cuts from support staff and the seniority lists, leaves us at a disadvantage with our membership. The lack of empathy with those people whose jobs are in jeopardy is disheartening.

As we focus our attention on the current economy of our country we do not believe adding more people to our unemployment lines will improve our economic status. Our tax dollars can be used either to continue to keep current staff employed or to support those added to the unemployment lines.

Although we are thoroughly aware of the constraints being put on the Greece school budget by the governor's state aid funding and until the Federal financial stimulus, which has additional educational funding for New York, has been determined the budget will not be final. While we are certainly not claiming to be experts on either the budget process or education we would like to suggest that perhaps developing some unconventional ideas to make cuts from our budget would be more effective. Common sense tells us that our student's academic success and the Greece community's economy will be stronger if we keep our staff employed.