



RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE BOCES TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

To: Members of the RCG BOCES Teachers' Association
From: Joal Bova, President, RCG BOCES Teachers' Association
Re: Welcome to the New School Year
Date: August 26, 2021

Welcome to the 2021/2022 school year. Last year we stood together to open our schools safely and to ensure a one year extension to our contract without concessions. We reminded the administration at every opportunity of the good work that our membership was doing and the benefits that our students were receiving as a result. We also reminded them of the difficult circumstances that we work under during normal times and educated them as to how much more difficult those conditions had become. We communicated the reality that we were tired and that the new requirements were not sustainable.

This year we resolve to do more of the same. We have clarified our position with the administration during a Liaison meeting on August 25th. The topics included staff schedules and preps, staffing ratios and shortages, covid protocols, remote instruction, and building readiness among others.

Although the policy around remote instruction has tightened, and we expect far fewer remote students, we know as the year progresses there will be instances of in person students needing to quarantine. We continue talking with the administration to shape what remote instruction will look like. There is however a general agreement that what happened last year can not be repeated.

As the year begins we will continue to advocate for our membership regarding these and other issues. We will once again begin negotiating a new contract, hopefully in October. As you know, the agreed upon extension has expired. We were pleased to have finally reached an agreement with the administration, but believe it should have happened months before it did. We will use this new round of negotiations to "reset" the process and hope that the administration will engage with the same mindset.

As the year progresses please familiarize yourself with our Association and be in touch with questions and concerns. This can be done by using the following resources and by knowing who the appropriate contacts are that you may need during the year. Websites and contact info is as follows:

Joal Bova, president, RCGBOCESpres@gmail.com 518-527-2579

Diane Stever, VP of SPED 518-369-0400

Rebecca Lainer, VP CTE 518-633-2276

Chris Miller, membership chair 518-461-2633

Mari Warfel, Member Wellness Coordinator 518-618-8868

Our website: <http://rcgboces.ny.aft.org/>

The NYSUT Website: <https://www.nysut.org>

Our Twitter: @BocesRcg

Our Contract: <https://www.questar.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Teachers-2017-2020.pdf>

2021/2022 Building Reps:

REC- Lisa Baron, lmbaron55@gmail.com

AREC- Jennifer Pruden, Jcolligan@me.com
CGEC- Rosemary Helinski, rpaa12@aol.com
RA- Kristen Esposito-Ublacker, Kesposita@nycap.rr.com
GW_ Michelle Baldwin, rzinoman@aol.com
New Visions- Peg Danner-Frank, dannerm6@hotmail.com
Sackett- Erika Mohan, Erika.karr@gmail.com
Catskill Academy- Stephanie Morgan, Smorgan4072@gmail.com
P.P. @ Maple Hill- Sarah Knightes, sarahknightes@gmail.com

Meetings for 2021/2022

All meetings take place at the Sackett Educational Center when open for in person instruction. A zoom component will be available and a link sent to membership prior to each meeting. Meetings will start at 3:30 with member concerns to follow the agenda portion of the meeting.

Thursday September 16th
Thursday October 21st
Thursday November 18th
Thursday January 20th
Thursday February 17th
Thursday March 17th
Thursday April 14th *(2nd Thursday due to break)
Thursday May 19th

As last year showed us, we are stronger together. Let us move forward together and build on what we have already done. Please consider becoming more active in the Association by attending meetings, visiting our website or Twitter, reading our communications and responding to surveys, volunteering for committees or considering holding an office in the future.

Best wishes for the coming school year. I look forward to working with you.

In Solidarity,
Joal Bova
President, RCG BOCES Teachers' Association