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Stronger Together: Across the State and Nation

As of this writing, the NYS budget is almost 30 days past due. Partly due to uncertainty at the federal level, the lack of a timely budget further stresses districts across the state. All of this impacts local decisions about how many students and services our component districts can commit to for the following school year.

At the federal level we have witnessed an unprecedented attack on public education and the dismantling of the Department of Education. It is still too early to understand the full impact, but we can be assured that it will disproportionately impact those who

have the greatest need. The new mandates will also impact what can be taught and how it is to be taught. This reduces local control, the opposite of what the new administration says they champion.

NYSUT, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the National Education Association (NEA) stand ready to support educators and students across the country. Recently NYSUT president Melinda Person visited The RHGTS and STEM High School. During her visit she had the opportunity to see programs, talk with students and meet with teachers to discuss the unique challenges of BOCES. Among NYSUT's push this year is an increase to the BOCES teacher salary cap which has limited the reimbursement that districts receive. This formula has not been increased in 30 years.

NYSUT recently pushed out its digital membership cards. These cards can be used for a variety of member services and discounts across the country. If you have not already done so, create an account at NYSUT.org. If you do not know your membership number, please reach out to myself or

Craig Church (membership chair) and we can retrieve it for you. There will also be information at our end of the year celebration to assist you with obtaining your digital card.

May 22 is this year's end of the year celebration at Ryan's Wake. If you plan to attend and did not RSVP, please reach out to me as soon as possible so that we can accommodate you. I look forward to celebrating with you there!

In Solidarity,

Joal Bova,

President, RCG BOCES Teachers' Association

We want to make sure that you are getting all that you can out of your membership! Make sure you are receiving communications from us through a personal email. Check out our website at <http://rcgboces.ny.aft.org/>. Follow us on Twitter @BocesRcg. If you have not already created an online account, do so at www.NYSUT.org. Our Local is RCG BOCES Teachers' Association Local 10175. Once you log in, you will have access to a variety of membership benefits.



NYSUT President's Statement on Executive Order to Dismantle U.S. Department of Education

"All students benefit from programs run by the U.S. Department of Education, especially lower-income students, students with disabilities and families in rural, suburban, and urban communities across the nation. As the current administration has now

announced a clear intent to dismantle the agency, NYSUT stands ready to fight back to defend every student, every teacher, every school, every community, and the resources they deserve.

Click [here](#) for more information

Exciting Education in our Pre-K Programs

Our Questar III Pre-K programs have been in full swing this spring with plenty of wonderful activities to help these students learn and grow! Below are a few recent highlights from our Pre-K programs.



At Red Mill school, pre-k has been learning about seeds, plants, and flowers and had an egg hunt. Each student in Pricilla Halsey's class brought an egg in after break with something inside and with clues for their friends to try and guess.

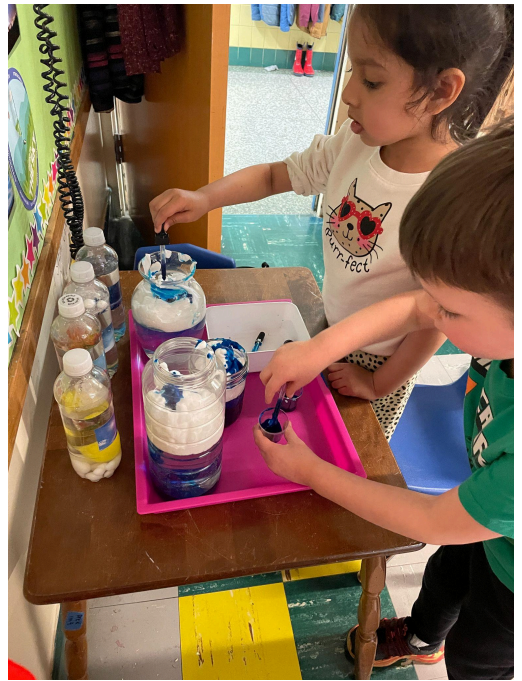


Erin Jenkins' pre-k class at Donald P. Sutherland Elementary in East Greenbush took an exciting field trip to the NYS Museum where students learned all about animal adaptations.





At the Green Meadow universal pre-k site, Brianna Stauder's class has been studying spring weather throughout the month of April. They incorporated English language arts, STEM, math, science and social studies concepts into this unit. Some of the fun included a cloud viewer, making clouds with shaving cream and colored water, a water cycle experiment, and art projects with drippy rain clouds.



Finally, Jennifer Welch's pre-K class at Ichabod learned about Earth Day! They enjoyed learning about how the earth rotates around the sun. They learned the word "orbit" and ways to keep our earth clean by recycling and reusing various items. They celebrated by observing earthworms and even hugged some trees to thank them for making our planet so beautiful.



Article 10- Employee Rights

10.2 Payroll Options

A. Salaries of each employee shall be paid on at least a bi-weekly basis throughout the school year commencing on the first Wednesday payroll date that school is in session, pursuant to whichever of the following options is selected by the employee, in writing, not later than June 30 of the school year preceding that in which the payment is sought:

Option A --22 payment plan (Gross annual salary divided by 22 will be paid each pay period).

Option B --26 payment plan (Gross annual salary divided by 26 will be paid each pay period with the exception of the last pay period in June. The employee will receive five twenty-sixths (5/26ths) of his or her gross annual salary on that pay date). --In the event that no option is selected, the Agency will pay pursuant to Option A.

-- For both Option A and Option B pay for the first payroll date after school is in session will continue to be based upon the actual number of work days.

B. If an individual elects to change from Option A to Option B, notification shall be sent, in writing, to the office of the Deputy Superintendent for Business and Financial Services by June 30 prior to the commencement of the school year during which the change is requested to become effective. The Executive Officer shall notify the employees of the existence of Options A and B by June 1 of each school year. Once notified, if a teacher does not make an election to change by June 30 for the commencing school year, the payroll option will remain the same.

C. Teachers new to the District will be notified, in writing, of the availability of Options A and B and will be given a reasonable time to select an option.



Access the full [contract here](#)



NYSUT members have access to programs and services from NYSUT Member Benefits that can help them save money, protect their family, and assist with planning for the future.

With our **Legal Service Plan**, you will receive crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Power of Attorney); free attorney consultations; and guaranteed maximum fees for personal legal matters. Plan participants receive guaranteed hourly rates along with discounted prices for referral attorneys.

Our **Financial Counseling Program** offers access to certified financial planners that provide fee-based financial counseling services. Participants can get help with retirement planning, 403(b) & 457(b) plan advice, debt management, savings, budgeting, and more.

Check out **Synchrony Bank** for some of today's most competitive interest rates on certificates of deposit, money market, and savings accounts. An optional automated savings program (which makes transfers from your checking account at another bank to your money market or savings account at Synchrony Bank) is an easy way to build your balances in higher-earning accounts.

Our online **Financial Learning Center - powered by Kiplinger's Personal Finance** - offers numerous articles designed to assist NYSUT members with achieving their personal financial goals and better understand the nuances of insurance, savings, investing, and more. This free resource is updated on a monthly basis.

Do you have student loan or general debt concerns? Our **Cambridge Credit Counseling program** is available at no cost to assist NYSUT members with better understanding general debt consolidation and student loan repayment options. Members can take part in a free consultation with a certified Cambridge counselor or sign up for a no-cost student loan debt webinar provided by Cambridge.

Take back your financial independence and protect your family for whatever the future may bring.

Learn more by scanning the QR code, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.



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