

WCT COMMENTATOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS CONGRESS OF TEACHERS

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 3

WAPPINGERS CONGRESS OF TEACHERS

2016 BOE AND BUDGET VOTE

By Jim Marrinan – Director of Political Action

It's that time of year again. Budgets throughout New York State will be brought before the voters on **TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016**. It is imperative that we support the WCSD budget and elect Board members who want to continue the ongoing improvement in our school district, who are supportive of staff and want to retain the very best and who do not bring individual grudges or axes to grind to the table. We find ourselves supporting 3 candidates at this time. Please help us attain our goals!

We ask that you:

1. Be registered to vote.
2. Get out and vote on **May 17, 2016**.
3. Address at least 3 postcards to positive voters living in the Wappingers School District.
4. Please vote **YES** on the budget and vote for the following candidates for the School Board:

PAUL GALLETTA

BARBARA GOODMAN

EDDY A. SLOSHOWER

INSIDE

- **New Teacher Evaluations on the Horizon**
- **NYSUT Fact Sheet**
- **Candidate Bios**
- **Evans' Elementary School Shares Stories**
- **Myers Corners is Building for All to See**
- **Brinkerhoff is Cleaning the Earth**
- **John Jay Gets Health(ier)**
- **Fishkill Elementary Raise**



CANDIDATE BIOS & INFORMATION

EDDY A. SLOSHOWER My wife and I have lived in East Fishkill for the past 13 years and our daughter is in fifth grade at Fishkill Plains Elementary School. I am currently an independent insurance broker and a small business consultant. Before this, I spent over 25 years in the real estate, finance and mortgage industries working as an Area Sales Manager for such companies as AIG International and Bank of America.

I was also elected six years in a row as Vice President/Treasurer for a Coop Complex in Westchester County. During my tenure, I was instrumental in revitalizing an almost bankrupt complex to one that was financially thriving. As a result of my time with the complex, I am very familiar with capital improvement projects and how to best utilize funding.

For the past three years, I have attended 95% of all school board meetings. I am a member of the District Audit Committee, Smart Schools Bond Act Committee, District Strategic Planning Committee, Capital Improvement Committee—community participant and District Policy Committee—community attendee.

I am an active member of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. I have established relationships with community-based organizations, local politicians and local government.

My wife has been a teacher and educator for over 25 years and a quality education is extremely important to my family. I want to ensure that our district maintains the highest of educational standards for all students while remaining within budgetary constraints. I want to make sure that our teachers and other district employees have access to the very best resources needed to successfully do their jobs.

I support our teachers as professionals and want to move decision making back into the individual classrooms. Academics is only one part of a child's education; extracurricular activities help develop well rounded students and I will work to protect and maintain full scale extra curricular activities in sports, music, drama and the arts. Only working together can we guarantee the best education for our children.

As a self-employed taxpayer, I am acutely aware of the need to be fiscally responsible. I want to spearhead the effort to restore financial accountability to this district. I will address current and future school tax burdens as a result of unfunded mandates and will make certain there is improved communication between the WCSD Board of Education and the district, which it represents. I look forward to serving this community and hope you will support me on May 17th.





Candidate

BARBARA GOODMAN

I am a homeowner in the Village of Wappingers Falls and have taught high school Social Studies for 18 years for Newburgh School District. I am also a proud single parent of two children who are out of college and in careers, and step-mother to two Roy C. Ketcham graduates. I am running for the school board because as an experienced teacher I believe it's about time someone consulted teachers and parents about education.

We can maintain and even improve education without spending a great deal more money. We can start by improving communication between the board and members of the school community – the taxpayers, teachers, district employees and parents who together make education happen.

We should use the expertise of our teachers in making education decisions, because they are far more knowledgeable about our kids and our classrooms than outside “experts.” We could appoint a board liaison to our teaching staff and hold forums for teachers, administrators, and school-related-professionals to speak directly to the board about issues they face. The district benefits from their experience and expertise. Our children will benefit from their input.

Maintaining school quality in order to protect the value of our homes in a challenging real estate market is smart. Investing in our children and our community now and for the future is more than smart – it's wise. I want to play a part in that. I hope you'll join me.

As a teacher, I know what works in classrooms. I have experience in successful grant writing, designing and teaching courses for teachers, school budget review, and communicating with parents, teachers, and administrators.

Residents, taxpayers, and parents can be proud of their support for Wappinger's students. I'm running for the school board because that's where the focus of education belongs.



Candidate

PAUL GALLETTA

I am a parent of two sons that are students in our school district. I graduated from Roy C. Ketcham in 1988. I enlisted in the military and served 5 years, active duty, in the U.S. Navy. I currently work as a Fire Captain in the Arlington Fire District where I have been employed for 21 years. I earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education/social studies from SUNY New Paltz in 2002.

When my oldest son started kindergarten at Myers Corners ten years ago, my wife and I joined the PTA and volunteered at many school events and met a great group of people. I decided to get involved at the District level and began attending Board of Education meetings on a regular basis.

Over the past several years, I have been a member of our school district's Strategic Planning Committee, District Advisory Facilities Committee, Audit Committee, and a school Safety Team. I was also a panelist at our District's Common Core Forum where I advocated for improved implementation of the Standards.

As a member of our Strategic Planning Committee, I participated in developing our core values, objectives, and mission statement. I saw, first hand, the professionalism and dedication of the team members over the entire first year as we worked to develop the foundation of our strategic plan. But a strategic plan is only words on paper if we do not have the vision and will to support it.

My goal is to achieve our mission with the guidance of our strategic plan. I know that is easier said than done and it's an ongoing work in progress. We will always face difficult decisions and challenges, but I intend to work toward that goal by contributing to an environment of cooperation, understanding, and respect.

From the Executive Board of WCT...



Dear WCT members,

Our brothers and sisters of the CWA need our support. Verizon is putting unfair demands on their membership. We feel that we should support our union brother and sisters who are being affected at this time.

We are providing our support through donations of water and food, but more importantly we would like to walk with them. Please consider walking with them in either Poughkeepsie or Fishkill in front of the Verizon stores.

We would like to start on Tuesday, May 10th and Tuesday, May 17th. The CWA members usually stay until about 6:00 p.m.; however, they remain until the store closes at 8:00 p.m. at times. Give them 15, 30 or 45 minutes. Whatever you can fit into your schedule. They would appreciate your support. If those dates don't work for you go any time that does.

Thank you,

The WCT Executive Board

VITAL INFORMATION...

NYSUT's Fact Sheet on Registration

Beginning July 1, 2016, all permanently or professionally certified teachers or educational leaders and Level III teaching assistant certificate holders will be required to register with SED.

Check out the Fact Sheet (16-01) on NYSUT's website to learn more.

<http://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/2016/april/teacher-registration-regulations>

If you are at the RA and have questions about Registration, stop by the Research & Educational Services booth.

-The ELT Team

New York will have a New Teacher Evaluation System in 2019, Officials Say

By Monica Disare of Chalkbeat.org

New York is set to begin a total overhaul of its teacher and principal evaluations in spring 2017, according to state officials, though a new system won't be in place until 2019.

The revamp, which state education officials discussed in detail for the first time Monday, will be part of a sweeping transition over the next several years as the state adopts new tests and academic standards. But the changes to teacher evaluations are set to begin last — a careful sequencing that reflect officials' desire to avoid moving too quickly, a frequent criticism of their predecessors.

"We want to make sure that there's a very purposeful communication process in place for whatever we end up deciding is the evaluation structure," State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia said. "Going too early on some of these key components would cause us to be first of all, I think, stressed."

Elia offered no hints about how, exactly, they want to see evaluations change. That work will be left up to a committee, the Regents materials indicate.

New York's teacher evaluations, which come from classroom observations and student performance measurements, have been the subject of controversy since their introduction throughout most of the state in 2012. Last December, the Regents suspended the use of grades 3-8 English and math tests in evaluations for the next four years.

The process for creating a new evaluation system that officials laid out Monday looks similar to the one Elia presented in February for reviewing the Common Core standards — it just starts a year later.

First, in the spring of 2017, a committee will convene teachers and experts to review the state's evaluation law as well as national models, according to Regents materials. The committee will present recommendations to the board that fall.

By 2018, the education department plans to have a full proposal for a system that will begin in the 2019-20 school year.

A state law that increased the weight of state tests in teacher evaluations last year remains on the books, which means future changes may also require lawmakers to act.

Published online at Chalkbeat.org April 18, 2016 and reprinted by permission.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

IF YOU BUILD IT, MYERS CORNERS...

By Erin McCurty

In March the 4th grades at Myers Corners were asked to build longhouses as part of their Social Studies unit. Each project also had a writing component. The students presented their projects and writing to their classmates.

Then the students from the 4th grade classes displayed their projects in the cafeteria so that the students from the other classes could view the projects. The 3rd grade students were also invited to come to the cafeteria to see the projects.



NYSUT EDUCATION

NYSUT Education & Learning Trust is sponsoring a Advanced Placement Summer Institute® July 11-14, 2016 in the Conference Center at NYSUT Headquarters, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, New York. The institute is designed for those new to teaching AP® or experienced educators desiring new strategies and methods to improve their teaching. Classes are held from 8 a.m. 4 p.m.

Course offerings include:

AP® Biology

AP® Calculus AB

AP® Calculus BC

AP® Chemistry

AP® English Literature and Composition

AP® US History

AP® World History

The fee is \$725 for 30 hours of inservice credit (\$650 if register prior to May 23). Tuition fee includes course materials, continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack each day.

Lab fees for AP® Biology are \$30 extra.

Deadline for registration is June 24. No registrations can be accepted without payment or purchase order number. Please note: Districts will be billed for purchase orders upon receipt, and payment is due by the start of the institute, July 11.

*Late registration may be possible if space and materials are still available. Please call (800) 528-6208 to inquire about late registration. Additional fees may apply.

ELT reserves the right to cancel any course because of insufficient enrollment or for any other reason. Institutes with low enrollments will be canceled on July 1, and all fees refunded. You are encouraged to register early to avoid the cancellation of institutes. Cancellations must be received in writing by July 1, or the full registration fee will be charged.

For more information or to register, visit us at: <http://elt.nysut.org/professional-development/advanced-placement-summer-institute> or call 800-528-6208.

- ELT

Fishkill Plains...Raising Money for 13 Years for Saint Jude's Children's Hospital

By Steve Schwartz



From the left, Joseph Grassi, Mr. Steve Schwartz, Henry Boshart

A total of 121 second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students at Fishkill Plains Elementary School participated in St. Jude's Math-A-Thon to raise money for Saint Jude Children's Hospital.

During the Math-A-Thon, students sign up sponsors, who will donate money for each math question they get correct. There are about 200 problems in each book. After they finish answering the math questions in the book, they collect the money and turn it in to school.

This year the students raised \$7,541 for Saint Jude Children's Hospital through the Math-A-Thon program.

In the last 13 years Fishkill Plains Elementary School has participated, they have raised \$103,983 for the hospital.

They are so proud of the students. Miss Bitting's class raised the most money, which was \$794. Joseph Grassi in Miss Scalzo's class raised the most money for this school. He raised \$445. In addition, Henry Boshart in Mrs. Wessels class raised \$300.

JOHN JAY EVENTS

Together we will help STRIKE OUT CANCER

On Thursday, April 21st The John Jay Varsity Softball Team held their first Strike Out Cancer softball game at home vs. Arlington. Together we were able to sell t-shirts, baked goods and have a 50/50 raffle to raise \$1,000.00 to donate to the Miles of Hope.

The John Jay Softball team, their families and the Miles of Hope would like to thank the John Jay faculty and staff for all their support. A special thank you to Norey Riley, Peggy Mulvey and Roy for making this happen on such short notice.

An extra special thanks to Ray at Goal Evolution who donated all the John Jay Varsity T-shirts for the pink out and made a nice donation to help us exceed our goal.

It is so nice when a community can come together to raise money for a great cause!

Thank you,

The John Jay Softball Booster Club



Assistant Principal Paul Albanese and the Wellness Committee headed a healthy initiative with Healthy Food Friday in April by encouraging healthy potluck donations from teachers and staff and a display and sponsorship from Nature's Pantry

To all fellow teachers of Math grades 3-8,

I am a member of the NYSUT MST and CTE Subject Area Committee. We are looking for any and all feedback from all grade levels on your thoughts or comments on the grades 3-8 math assessments.

Please forward anything that you would like me to share to dkart818@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for your assistance! Donna Kart WCT Treasurer

BRINCKERHOFF STAFF CLEANS A HIGHWAY FOR EARTH DAY



Thursday, April 22, 2016. Adopt a Highway. Brinckerhoff Staff beautified a stretch of Route 82 picking up trash and debris. Jen Bell, Paula Boshart, Cheryl Callaghan, Gina Carrigan, Kristen Cleary, Kath Howard, Lisa Gerstheimer, Allison King, Brian LaSusa, Greg Renino, Michelle Ryan, and Kathy Spinella participated in the program.

Dear Colleagues,

On June 3, the Down Syndrome Association of the Hudson Valley and Wappingers Congress of Teachers would like to come together and offer an opportunity to select students of WCSD and the teen/young adult members of the DSAHV to get together in an event to celebrate inclusion and bring awareness to Down Syndrome.

As a teacher in this district for 17 years, and a mother to a child with Down Syndrome, I am excited to see this type of event happen for our school and community. I am asking you to help make this event a success. I will need some volunteers to help chaperone and do set-up/clean-up. I would ask our community-minded clubs, like SADD, Civility Counts and any club that celebrates diversity, and their advisors to join us on the 3rd. Free music, food and fun for everyone! I want this to be an awesome night for all of our young people!

Please contact me at tgehlert3@gmail.com if you can chaperone, or assist with set-up/clean up, etc.

Please see the attached flyer and thank you in advance for your assistance in making this event happen!

Sincerely,

Tammy Gehlert

*The Down Syndrome Association
of the Hudson Valley
and
Wappingers Congress of Teachers*
presents



Live in Harmony

*Teen/Young Adult Dance
Promoting inclusion and Down Syndrome awareness*

June 3, 2016

6:30 - 9:00pm

Wappingers Junior High

30 Major MacDonald Way

Wappingers Falls, NY

(off of Middlebush Rd)

RSVP to tgehlert3@gmail.com by 5/15.

SCHOOLS HIGHLIGHT: EVANS' ELEMENTARY PICKS UP SOME STEAM

By Michelle Sasso



James S. Evans Elementary School hosted their STEAM night on February 11, 2016. This two hour night was filled with different experiments, activities, and information that reinforced all of the areas incorporated with STEAM.

Faculty and staff prepared, set up, and conducted experiments with the students from Evans and their families. Evans was able to run six different groups that rotated to the various stations throughout the night in order to promote hands on learning! It is safe to say that the enthusiasm of the participants, laughter, and the sharing of knowledge all led to a very successful night!

EVANS' ELEMENTARY BLOOD DRIVE

On March 31st, the Student Council and Peer Mediation groups at James S. Evans Elementary collaborated to run their very first Blood Drive. The New York Blood Center worked closely with these two groups in order to educate and run a smooth and successful blood drive.

The members of these groups, as well as the 6th graders of the school, were educated about the different types of blood, importance of donating, and the misconceptions many people have about donating. The members of Student Council and Peer Mediation created signs and posted them around the school and grocery stores, such as Hannaford's and Stop & Shop in Wappingers Falls.

Our "little doctors" ran the snack station and kept our patients feeling well and hydrated. Some welcomed patients and escorted them to the drive, others waved to cars while dressed as a blood drop, and others handed out personal Thank You cards to everyone who attempted and those who did donate. What a show these "little doctors" put on!

EVANS' ELEMENTARY: READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

By Michelle Sasso



Throughout the week of February 29th- March 4th, James S. Evans participated in many student-centered and engaging activities during “Read Across America”. From a ‘Read Across America’ oath to inviting parents in to read to the class, Evans was filled with knowledge, fun, laughter, and spirit.

In order to prepare and excite the students, every single classroom door was decorated with a different literature theme as well as pictures of every student reading their favorite book.

Each day of the week was a new event the children would participate in. The older students read to the younger students to promote the enjoyment of reading. Parents came in to guest read to remind students of all ages how story-telling can never get old!

Children wore shirts and hats that could be read on different days, signed and recited an oath that was hung in the hallway, and filled in a reading log each night that had them “Read Across America”, which students were able to color in states.

Not only did the students take on the challenge, but so did their teachers! Not once, but twice, the entire school went into the hallway and sang their hearts out at the same time to unite the school!

To top it all off, Meg Kearney, a famous author of children’s literature, read to us and invited the children to share the poems they had written for this special day. What fun we had and look forward to next year!



RALLY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

FRIDAY APRIL 1st
RT 9 and VASSAR RD

**LOCAL
TEACHERS
PLAN RALLY TO
'STAND UP
FOR STUDENTS'**



Participants Included:

Bridget Choubah
Elizabeth Megarr
Diane Dichiara
Joseph Pedota
Kerri Roger
Pasquale Delli Carpini



Robert Seipp

NEA Retirement Specialist for the WCSO, Investment Advisor Representative, GWN Securities, Inc. Cell Phone: 914-204-9062 Email: rseipp@gwnsecurities.com To learn more about me and my story, click here: <https://vimeo.com/123792899>

Security and Advisory Services offered through
GWN Securities, Inc.,

A Registered Investment Advisor. Member FINRA/SIPC 11440 N. Jog Road, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418 (561) 472-2700

Nice 2 Bedroom Apartment for rent -

\$1250 month + utilities

Town of Poughkeepsie, Arlington School District

Off Street Parking, Available immediately

If interested, call Elaine @ 559-9874 after 2 pm

House for Sale \$185,000 neg.

Town of Poughkeepsie - Hyde Park Schools

2/3 Bedrooms 1 Bath, Natural gas heat – radiator.
Built in 1939

For more info. call Elaine @ 559-9874 after 2 pm

FOR SALE

Petite baby grand piano. Best offer.

Armstrong open hole flute. Best offer.

100, BTU propane pool heater 2 years old. \$750

Contact at 489-5044 my cell Pat

NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Tom O'Hare (John Jay Physical Education) and his wife Meredith on the birth of their second daughter, Mauve Catherine, born on 1/23/16...22 inches, 9 lbs 12 oz.

A PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS CONGRESS OF TEACHERS

280 New Hackensack Rd

Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

PHONE: 845-227-5065 FAX: 845-227-1977

E-MAIL: wct@frontiernet.net

SUBMIT ADVERTISEMENTS

BOTH NONCOMMERCIAL, MEMBER ADS (NO CHARGE/TWO ISSUES) & COMMERCIAL ADS (\$5/ISSUE),

THROUGH WCT OFFICE: commentator@wcteachers.org.

Checks payable & mailed to WCT

Commentator Editor: Shahna Allen

Webmaster: Nancy Beiner

8th Annual Wappingers Congress of Teachers Food Drive

Every Can Counts!



Please bring in your Non-Perishable food items from
May 16 through May 20.

We encourage parents, students and community members to
participate!

Collection boxes will be placed in every WCSD school and at our
central office.

Boxes donated by Guardian Self-Storage

Food will be donated to the Zion Food Pantry which is located at the Zion
Episcopal Church and is 100% nondenominational with regard to the
people they serve.

Jack Devine, our retired WCT member contact at the food pantry, recently said that again this year the food pantry is in need for donations. They have come to rely on our annual food drive to give them a boost.

Please help us in this effort to give back to our community. Please email or call Kate DeGroat at degroatk39@aol.com or 298-5100 ext 31020 with any questions.

Thank you!!

Please see the dates below for the 2016 Legal and Financial Days. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call the union office at 227-5065.

WCT Welfare Trust Fund - Legal and Financial Day Schedule 2016	
2016	2016
May 25	May 25
June 8	June 22
June 22	

LOCATION OF WCT OFFICE

280 NEW HACKENSACK RD
WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY 12590

- Located directly across from Dutchess County Airport
- On the right 2.5 miles from Rt 9
- On the left .25 miles from All Angels and 376 Intersection
- Next to Mid Hudson Podiatry

THE WCT WELFARE TRUST FUND

Trustees:

Flip Gertler	Chairperson
Theresa Stowel	Treasurer
Erin Mulligan	Secretary
Kim Mahusky	Trustee
Pasquale Delli Carpini	Trustee
Ronnie Dwyer	WTF Administrator

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

WCT OFFICE:	845-227-5065
DANIEL H. COOK	800-342-6651
MIRKIN & GORDON (LAWYERS)	914-997-1576
DAVIS VISION	800-999-5431
STACY BRAUN ASSOC (FINANCIAL)	888-949-1925
HEALTH ADVOCATE	866-695-8622

