

New Paltz Board of Education Rejects NYSSBA Executive Director Tim Kremer's Attack on Parent-Teacher Anti-High Stakes Testing Activism

Adopted by the New Paltz Board of Education on March 2, 2016

WHEREAS, on February 20th, 2013 the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District unanimously adopted a resolution calling for an end to high-stakes standardized testing; and

WHEREAS, on August 27th, 2014 the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District unanimously adopted a resolution calling for public education stakeholders, when considering elections for New York State office, to be mindful of issues pertaining to public education, including needed reductions in standardized testing, school privatization, and private influence over educational materials and standards; and

WHEREAS, on February 4th, 2015, the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the lobbying efforts of New Paltz United Teachers and other organizations to eliminate the use of high-stakes testing; and

WHEREAS, on November 4th, 2015, the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District researched and unanimously adopted a position paper rejecting the validity and reliability of the Value Added Model in New York State for assessment of student learning and teacher and district performance, and calling for a cessation of its use; and

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Cuomo, in response to public and institutional pressure, including the substantial growth in the student test refusal movement, convened a Common Core Task Force on September 28th, 2015, for purposes of reviewing these and other education issues of great concern to the New Paltz Central School District, which, on December 10th, 2015, made a series of recommendations for further study that suggest the potential for progress; therefore

LET IT BE KNOWN that the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District is thankful for, and indebted to the grassroots parent and community groups, and teachers' unions and other organizations in our region and throughout the state for the great and successful efforts on their part in raising public awareness, and propelling public discourse and activity, towards meeting the aforementioned goals of our district; and further

LET IT BE KNOWN that the editorial written by Timothy Kremer, Executive Director of the New York State School Boards Association, and published by NYSSBA in print and on its website (<http://www.nyssba.org/news/2016/01/21/on-board-online-january-25-2016/take-yes-for-an-answer/>), and distributed by Timothy Kremer and other NYSSBA staff members at public gatherings, that harshly criticizes the New York State Alliance For Public Education (NYSAPE) and other grassroots organizations with similar viewpoints and activities for their continuing efforts towards achieving those goals, was written by him alone without surveying New York State school boards to assess our collective opinion, and should not be delivered or received as an official position of the organization of which we are members and to which our taxpayers pay our dues; and further

LET IT BE KNOWN that the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School district disagrees with, and dissociates itself from both the message and tone of Timothy Kremer's editorial, and wishes to express our gratitude to NYSAPE, New Paltz United Teachers (NPUT), tens of thousands of teachers throughout the state, and other parent, teacher, and community organizations for the substantial role they have played, and should continue to play, in protecting the interests of public education in New York State, and the students, staff, and taxpayers of the New Paltz Central School District.