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**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

Recommendation for Adoption of Legislation

Brian Cournoyer
President

The Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District strongly supports the passage of the following pieces of legislation. It is our understanding that with the recent election of Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky to the State Senate, that the Assembly bills under his sponsorship will be introduced in the Senate, and the Assembly nomenclature on the bills is included here for reference purposes.

Aimee Hemminger
Vice President

We consider these bills to be a good start towards repairing the damage done to education in New York State over the last few years, and preventing future harm stemming from punitive funding restrictions, as well as providing for alternative pathways to graduation.

Alison Easton
Member

[A09626](#) - Decouples teacher evaluations from student test results and directs the Board of Regents to establish a committee to research and develop a valid and reliable method for teacher evaluations. In so doing, it removes existing incentives to “teach to the test” and be unable to respond appropriately to students’ creativity and developmental differences

Steven Greenfield
Member

Michael O’Donnell
Member

[A09578](#) - Repeals State takeover of failing schools and puts the school reform process back in the hands of local educators, parents, and other district stakeholders who are in the best position to understand the specific needs of the school district.

Dominick Profaci
Member

[A09584](#) - Reduces testing by directing the Board of Regents to establish a committee to shorten the length of tests and find ways to increase their transparency. Additionally, any administered tests would be provided afterwards to students, parents and teachers so that they can be used to improve the manner in which teachers teach and students learn.

Julie Tresco
Member

SUPERINTENDENT
Maria C. Rice

[A09579](#) - Creates an alternate pathway to graduation by establishing a Career and Practical Education (CPE) pathway to a high school diploma, which would provide a valuable alternative for students who do not wish to take – or are unable to pass – the Regents exams. By teaching practical life skills and training students for a career, a CPE pathway will better prepare all New York students for their post-high school lives, and send them into the economy fully eligible for employment.

DISTRICT CLERK
Dusti Callo

[A09829](#) – Decouples eligibility for new state aid increases to district and union renegotiation of existing contractual APPR systems. The ever-changing requirements and complexity of the options have been prohibitive to success within the mandated time frames, and it is impossible for both parties to be sure a satisfactory outcome can be achieved when a Sword of Damocles of the size the existing law created – for the New Paltz Central School District the amount to be lost is \$1.9 million, with the figure for public education statewide in the hundreds of millions – is hanging over our heads. Also, since the model used by the State for the test score component is neither reliable nor valid, achieving any new evaluation system that requires incorporation of student test results is fundamentally flawed. Forcing districts to take action known to be harmful to students and professional evaluation validity in exchange for funding instruction is unacceptable.

We thank you for your attention to our recommendations on these bills, and hope all will be adopted, with your support, before the end of the current session.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2015/a9829/amendment/original>

(Approved by BOE Resolution: May 4, 2016)