



# Happenings

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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## Message from the President

### Officers

**President:**

**Regis Foster**

**1st Vice President:**

**Jenny McElroy**

**2nd Vice President:**

**Barbara Cathy**

**Recording Secretary:**

**Debra Cassara**

**Corresponding/  
Social Secretary:**

**Claire Dillon**

**Treasurer:**

**Todd Hill**

**Grievance Chair-  
man:**

**Robert Avdoyan**

Spring will be here before you know it, which in the world of education focuses our attention on the issues of the district budget and elections.

### Website

Any information that you need for our union can be found at [www.pjta.us](http://www.pjta.us). Please see your Head Building Representative (HBR) for the password. If there is any information that you feel should be there, you can E-mail them to me. Again, I want to thank Scott Reichert for maintaining this website!

### Contract

Our contract will be heading to the copiers. There was an issue that came up of whether or not the APPR agreement should be inserted in our contract. That agreement that the state approved with all of the legal terms is about 60 pages and since we will be heading back to re-negotiate the APPR agreement next year, it will not be included in the contract! Who knows if the committee will chose this rubric for 2014-2015 school year! Speaking of the APPR agreement, it has come to my attention that many teachers are concerned or worried about that they may lose their jobs over their evaluation scores. I just want all of you to remember that in the agreement that I signed, there is a clause that states that the first two years (2012-2013/2013-2014) will not affect anyone. The worst you can receive for this school year or next school year after being rated In-effective or Developing is a Teacher Improvement Plan (TIP).

### Retirement

Our new contract states that if anyone is going to retire, an intent to retire letter needs to be submitted to Mr. Xanthis by March 15th.

### Snow Days Left

We have three snow days left in our calendar as to date.

## President's Message

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### 2013-2014 School Calendar

The board of education has passed the school calendar for next year. There are some changes in the calendar. Some of the changes are we will start off the year by having two conference days instead of one. This is due to the fact that our APPR scores will not be able to be finalized come this June. The elementary state assessment scores do not get released to the schools until late July or early August. The administration needs to review their scores with our members to finalize their APPR for this year. There will be no conference day on Election Day. We will get two weeks off for Christmas break! We will also get a four day weekend for Memorial Day.

### Benefit Fund

All the forms and information that you need is located on our website located under the title *Benefit Fund Information*. Just a friendly reminder that your vision allotment for this two year cycle will be coming to an end on June 30, 2013. If you are in need for a new pair of glasses, now is the time to get them. If there are any questions that you may have, you can either go to our website or contact the trustee in your building. The trustees are Myself and Deb Cassara who can be reached for our high school members, Carol Brown for our A.S.K. members, Claire Dillon for our H.B.E. members, and Elke O'Connell for our middle school members.

### School Board Candidate

There were three candidates who expressed interest for the vacant seat on the board. The school board has chosen former PJTA member and Superintendent Bob Witherow to replace Steve Doss's seat. PJTA welcomes Bob Witherow!

### PJTA Elections

The PJTA election of officers will be coming up in the upcoming weeks. Notice of nominations for the offices of president, 1st vice-president, 2nd vice-president, corresponding/social secretary, grievance chairman, recording secretary, treasurer, and delegates to the NYSUT and AFT conventions will be brought up at our March & April meetings. Any member can be nominated by either writing an E-mail or letter to me from March 18th through April 15th by 3PM, or at our representative meetings in March & April. At the close of our April 15th meeting, the ballots will be typed up and distributed to all of our members. The job descriptions for these positions can be found in the PJTA constitution. The PJTA constitution can be found on our website. I will run for another term as your president.

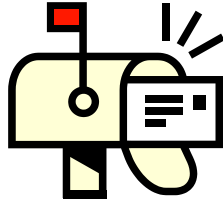
### School Budget

Next month, the district will be presenting next year's budget. I reminded the district that PJTA negotiated and accepted a 0% increase this year to help the district. I also informed the district that staff reductions should not even be considered unless the district uses their massive financial reserves or provide an incentive to our members.

In Solidarity,

*Regis Foster*

## **Correspondence**



### **Cards Sent**

### **Sympathy**

Scott Reed—loss of his grandfather  
Erin Bratton—loss of her uncle  
Christine Piscitelli—loss of her mother-in-law, Helena Current  
Trisha Taub—loss of her grandfather, Robert Ritchie and great aunt Sue Tynatishon  
Jeni Galligan—loss of her grandmother, Winetta MacDonald  
Diane Barber—loss of her mother-in-law, Ruth Barber  
Tammy Lara—loss of her mother, Marilyn Irelan  
Carolyn Dorritie—loss of her brother, Thomas McAleer

### **Get Well**

Melissa Randolph  
Rich Samek

### **Congratulations**

Jack & Anna Higgins on their marriage  
Matt & Ryan Carlozzi—birth of their son  
Paddy & Melissa McCarthy—birth of their daughter, Rachel

### **Cards Received**

Linda Falconieri—thank you for our expression of sympathy