



Officers

President: Joseph Becker

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2nd Vice President: Carol Brown

Recording Secretary: Maura Brady-Wilson

Corresponding Social Secretary:
Shannon Johnson

Treasurer: Lindsay Wylie

Grievance Chairperson: Jacqueline Behnke

Happenings January 2026

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

Editor: Caitlyn Gunderman | cgunderman@pischools.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a cold stretch of weather, and although we have had a lot of snow, we have managed to dodge some school days, saving the three remaining snow days we have left. With the way this winter is going, I am glad we still have a few left in the bank.

Our monthly meeting was cancelled due to the snow day, but PJTA had our district meeting this week and discussed a variety of items. One of which was summer school dates. I have heard from some elementary folks about getting summer school on a five-day week schedule, allowing for an additional week on the back end. Unfortunately, this proposal would not be feasible for secondary schools, as the summer school schedule is directly influenced by the Regents exams, which are scheduled for August 18th and 19th. I proposed two different schedules to accommodate the elementary requests and keep the secondary in alignment with the Regents exams. Due to the increased costs associated with bussing, cafeteria responsibilities, and coverage in various areas, the district was unable to approve having two separate schedules. Therefore, we will follow a similar model to what we have done for the past few years. There will be a window for an optional set-up day somewhere during the week of June 29th and July 3rd (waiting on

confirmation on those exact dates). However, below is the schedule. The district will be looking for proctors and people to grade on August 18th and 19th, so be on the lookout if you are interested in making a few extra bucks.

Summer School Dates & Times

ES

Monday-Friday, July 6-10

Monday-Thurs, July 13-Aug 13

Student times: 8:30-12:30 pm

Staff times: 8:30-12:30 pm

MS/HS

Monday-Friday, July 6-10

Monday-Thurs, July 13-Aug 13

Student times: 7-11:30 am

Staff times: 6:45-11:45 am

***HS Regents: Aug 18,19**

***HS Graduation: Aug 20**

ESY Dates & Times:

Monday-Friday, July 6-Aug 14

Student times: 8:30-12:30 (elementary schedule)

We are waiting on BOCES to propose some school calendar options. We will be doing an MOA for a Sign Language Club that has been meeting already, proposed a few months back. Additionally, we will be working on an MOA for a YOGA stipend for the next school year.

Moreover, a few members reached out about the possibility of a “Will Signing Day.” Initially, I was planning to skip this year and postpone it until next, but after learning about some inconveniences these members were facing, I wanted to make it easier for them. As a result, I’m coordinating with the law firm to set up a Zoom session for the initial steps and paperwork. Following that, we’ll schedule a date for the in-person "Will Signing" day. Stay tuned for more details.

Lastly, I sent out an email regarding the Fix Tier 6 Rally. The registration deadline was January 31st, but if you missed it and still wish to attend, let me know, and I can gather more information for you.

On another note, PJTA is excited to hear about our new Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. We are excited to see that Jared Kahmar is coming home.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please let PJTA know.

In solidarity,

Joe Becker
PJTA President

Board Meeting Sign-ups: Please contact Maura Brady-Wilson if you have not signed up to attend a board meeting this year. We are asking everyone to attend one meeting. Please consider participating in this simple request from PJTA.

Upcoming Meetings:

- PTJA: **2/23 @ 3:45** pm in the MS Media Center. President Joe Becker will send out a link before each meeting.
- Board of Education: **2/10 @ 7:00 pm** in the Main Office located on Pike Street

Correspondence:

Condolence cards sent to:

Dawn Croan on the passing of her father, Walter Zovistoski

Card sent to Caitlyn and Jason Gunderman on the loss of Caitlyn's father, Ed Conklin

Tony and Nancy Digiantommaso on the loss of Nancy's mother, Marilyn Carroll

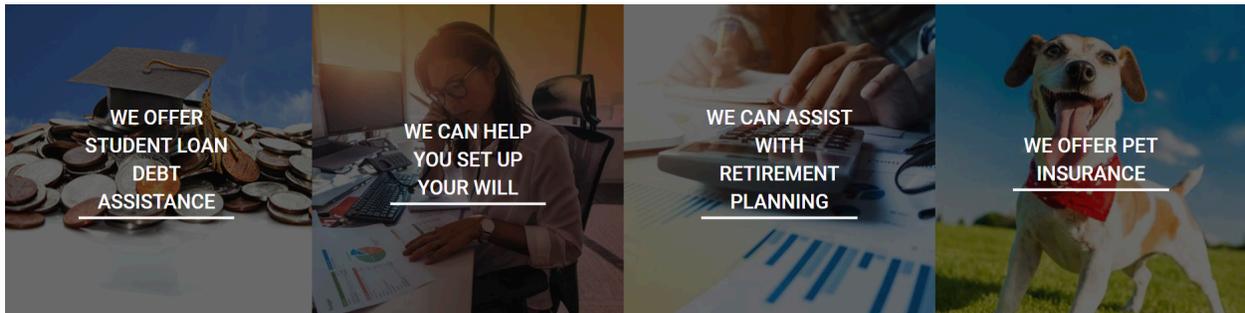
Jackie Behnke on the loss of her father-in-law, Larry Charles Behnke

Andrew Marotta on the passing of his mother, Dorothy Marotta



NYSUT News:

NYSUT's strength as well as its pride is in the diversity of its membership. That is why the union is proud to offer a wide array of programs, services and information that address its members' unique interests and issues.



Member Programs, Services, and Information:

- Created in partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, this confidential helpline can provide answers, referrals, and empathetic support when you need it.
 - Check it out online: [Peer Support Line](#)

- [PEER SUPPORT LINE](#) -- For more information or to speak with someone at the Peer Support Line, call toll-free 844-444-0152.

- [Travel Assistance Services](#)
- [Calm Service](#)
- [Legal Assistance](#)
- [Death Benefits](#)
- [Credit Counseling](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Professional Development and CTLE](#)
- [MB Discount & Deals](#)
- [New Member Life Insurance](#)

[**NYSTRS Retirement Information:**](#)

Thinking About Retirement?

Retirement is a significant life event. Be sure to do the homework necessary to make informed decisions by reviewing publications, web pages, and videos early in the process.

- [Pension Education Toolkit](#)
- [Retirement Planning](#)
- [Countdown to Retirement](#)
- [Retirement Countdown Video Series](#)
- [Retirement Planning FAQs](#)
- [NYSTRS Retirement Checklist](#)
- [Benefits Consultation](#)

If you are planning to retire at the end of this school year, you should schedule a benefits consultation now via [MyNYSTRS](#) or by calling (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6100. See the [Benefits Consultations](#) page at NYSTRS.org for more details.

You may also calculate your pension estimates with the MyNYSTRS Pension Estimator in your My Retirement tab in your MyNYSTRS account.

NYS Office of Mental Health

Youth Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business

Call or text 988 (Suicide & Crisis Lifeline)

Or

Text "GOT5" to 741-741