

**Rockville Centre Teachers Association
Executive Council Meeting
December 19, 2016
Talking Points**

- 1 On December 12, members of the RVCTA met with Dr. Johnson to discuss payroll concerns. In January, there will be a change in the Payroll Department. Veronica Lalo will head the department and two new clerks will work under her. It is vital that you let your level vice president know if you contact Payroll regarding an error.

January 19 is a “Day of Action” as we work with colleagues from across the nation in advocating for public education. New York State United Teachers announced today the statewide union would mobilize to combat federal policy under the incoming president-elect and his administration that would aim to dismantle public education and harm the nation’s students.

Under a [resolution passed Saturday by NYSUT’s Board of Directors](#), the union will take part in a Jan. 19 national Day of Action organized by the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools, a nationwide network of community groups and unions promoting educational and social justice.

The NYSUT board’s resolution comes on the heels of the controversial nomination of Betsy DeVos for U.S. secretary of education. DeVos — who has no experience or expertise in education — has used her family’s vast fortune in Michigan to push for the proliferation of for-profit charter schools and the implementation of voucher schemes that have siphoned millions from public schools.

“Betsy DeVos has spent a lifetime using her family’s billions to push for policies that would systematically destroy the nation’s public education system, including institutions pre-K through higher education,” said NYSUT President Karen E. Magee. “Her nomination defies logic and represents the potentially destructive path on which our next president could set this nation. NYSUT will not relent in its fight to protect students, families, schools and communities against the threats posed by the policies of such dangerous ideologues.” More to follow.

- 2 Thanks again to Virginia Stamatakis for her hard work in providing guidance on retirement for our members.
- 3 The dental deadline has passed. Thanks to Pat Quinn and members of the Benefits Trust Committee for their hard work.
- 4 Get ready for a General Membership meeting – Information to follow.
- 5 As indicated in a recent email, dues will be deducted commencing in January, 2017
- 6 Viri has been selected by NYSUT to attend the NEA Leadership Summit, to be held in mid-February.
- 7 NYSUT’s annual Representative Assembly will be held on April 7-8, 2017 in New York City.
- 8 Thanks to those who attended the December Board of Education meeting.

9 Politics –

- a. January 21 – Women’s March on Washington, DC – a permit has been issued for this event
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2016/12/15/the-womens-march-on-washington-officially-has-a-permit-for-jan-21/?utm_term=.36a7ed01f162 We have heard that there are plans for a similar event to be held in NYC. As this information becomes available, we promise to keep you apprised.
- b. Democrat challenger John Brooks just joined Todd Kaminsky as a NYS Senator – The ramifications of Brooks’ defeat over Mike Venditto is important in helping us give voice to Albany. The Long Island 9 is no longer!
- c. After two successful terms in Nassau County’s Legislature, Nassau County Legislator Laura Curran has announced that she will throw her hat into the ring for the upcoming NC Executive election. She may be running in a primary against Charles “Chuck” LaVine. Viri met with Laura on Friday, December 16 – She is knowledgeable and works diligently on behalf of those within her regional area. A vote for Laura Curran is a vote for a fresh start in Nassau County.

10 Important for Members - Please remember:

1. If in a difficult situation at a meeting with an administrator, please remember to state, “At this time, I feel that I need a union representative.”
2. Register with our union website, found at <http://ny.aft.org/rvcta>. You are not permitted to automatically access website contents! You must register.
3. Consider what is written while using RVCUFSD email and when you are using BYOD for your personal use.
4. If subpoenaed, please let RVCTA building rep or level vice president know immediately. Need a copy of the subpoena.
5. The member is responsible for maintenance of his/her certification. If you are teaching in a class in which you are uncertified, please advise your level vice president immediately.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday!