



sta note

STA Endorsed Candidates



Dan Maffei - 25th US Congressional District

In Congress, Dan Maffei has taken the lead in crafting and passing many of important initiatives to help our struggling middle class. From the Credit Cardholders Bill of Rights to creating a new green energy economy to Financial Reform and Healthcare Reform, Congressman Maffei has worked to make Upstate New York a better place to live. Maffei is also a strong supporter of Say Yes to Education and the Syracuse City School District.



Sam Roberts - 119th NYS Assembly District

- Strengthen Our Economy
- Ensure Access to Affordable Health Care
- Keep Education Affordable
 - Roberts understands that it's important to save programs and provide every child with access to a meaningful education.
- Create Safer Communities



Bill Magnarelli - 120th NYS Assembly District

In 12 years as Assemblyman, Bill has been a consistent advocate for education. He restored aide to all our local school districts, limiting property tax growth, while preserving quality education. Bill is a staunch supporter of the Say Yes to Education Program since it came to Syracuse. He is fighting to make sure that our children get a sound, basic education in all our public schools. Because of his efforts, education funding has doubled over the last 10 years.

Disability Insurance Available for STA Members

The STA announces that individual appointments are available for STA members to discuss disability insurance with an expert from Unimerica, the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed disability provider. Here are the details on the appointments:

When: October 26 and 27; November 2 and 3 - 2PM to 6PM each of the days

Where: STA Office, 731 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13203

How to Make an Appointment: To make a 30-minute appointment, please call Unimerica at 800-515-2471, Monday through Friday, 9 AM-5 PM. Appointments are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about disability insurance and how it can be an important part of your financial security.

STA Officer Vacancy

The 1st Vice President position is vacant. An election will be held at the November Rep Assembly. If you are interested in the position please submit a resume of no more than 400 words to the STA Election Committee C/O the STA Office by 4:00 PM, October 27, 2010. If you would like to submit your resume by email you may do so. Please submit a Word document to jdinap@syrteach.org by 4:00 PM, October 27, 2010.

STA School Budget Group

The STA is looking for members interested in participating in a study group which will examine the SCSD budget proposal for the 2010-2011 school year. This group will look at the SCSD budget process and proposals in the context of how these things impact our work in the classrooms. We believe our members should have an understanding and be informed about the financial decisions that shape our working lives. We also believe the STA's voice should be heard as the SCSD plans for these difficult financial times. Please join us in this important work. Interested members should call Karen @ the STA office. Meeting dates will be established soon.

Rep Assembly Open Forum Question and Answers

Q: Is there something in place so that children can't be moved from one city school to another city school during a school calendar year just because they moved to a different neighborhood? It really is a disruption in their learning.

A: We agree that students should have a consistent education and staying in the same school does help this. However in a district our size it is inevitable that some students will change schools. The BOE has looked at this issue for many of the same reasons we are concerned with. At this point there is no set policy that mandates students stay in one school during the year.

Q: What do we do when our copy machines are often out of service?

A: Communicate this to your building staff in charge of copier maintenance and request this to be fixed as soon as possible. If this is a common occurrence it should be brought up in Labor Management.

Q: Attendance at a conference was approved in the building, but Central Offices rejected the excused absence. STA members paid their own fees. Furthermore, these continuing education units (CEU) are required by NYS. What's up?

A: Excused absences are being denied for many people. An excused absence should not be taken for granted and members should not be paying for the conference until an excused absence is approved. It is not likely that requests needing subs will be approved. The STA will discuss the other issue of service providers and their CEU hours with the Special Education Office.

Q: Can non-classroom teachers be assigned posts at arrival and/or dismissal?

A: Yes.

Q: Do social workers have to attend 30-minute meetings in the elementary schools?

A: Yes, all Unit 1 employees are required by the contract to participate in these 30-minute meetings, PD, etc... This time is designed by the SLT.

Q: Can the Administration tell teachers that they must rewrite lesson plans from the district-mandated series (Treasures and Thinking Math)? All the relevant information is in the manual and must be followed verbatim.

A: It is the Association's understanding the district wants fidelity to the series. The Association does not believe re-writing the plans is necessary. However per Model for Practitioner Evaluation (MPE) each teacher must show evidence of planning.

Q: Why are downtown folks "rating" teachers and teams on the "1 to 4" scale?

A: There should be no rating of teachers besides what is in the Model for Practitioner Evaluation. This is how Unit 1 members are being evaluated.

Q: What is the MOU on plan books? How are they written? Can we use any template or design?

A: Per the May 4, 2005 MOU "Evidence of planning is a required element of a professional's practice. Written long term and daily plans are expected. They must be written in a format chosen by the practitioner. Elements of the domain will appear in different lessons, not necessarily all."

Q: Teachers are being asked to go in and observe other teachers under the guise of PD, but not evaluating - only a checklist of what is going on in the classroom. Does a teacher have to do it or can they refuse?

A: If this is part of the CCL training then it is fine. However, if there is any feedback going to administration or being used for evaluation then this is not acceptable.

Q: What supports should be in place for students who have a 1:1 TA during the day and attends the Say Yes after school program. There are three students with autism enrolled in one class with no added adult support.

A: There are no NYSED requirements for after school programs.

Q: Service providers in my building are raising questions about providing services and complying with Medicaid billing directives. With unreliable technology, how can this all be managed?

A: The STA has brought this up and is trying to work with the Special Education Department to resolve these issues.

