



News & Updates April 30, 2018

Congratulations! Labor Endorsed Candidates Win Special Election

Shelley May won a decisive victory on Tuesday, April 24 and will become the next State Senator from the 37th Senate District. More than 400 NYSUT volunteers made thousands of phone calls and knocked on doors in throughout the District, helping to propel the former Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer to victory despite more than \$1 million in contributions from out-of-state billionaires looking to destabilize local schools by draining money from them in order to open more charter schools. NYSUT President Andy Pallotta said “union members turned out the vote to ensure that working people have a strong voice in Albany to defend the interests of middle-class families and counter the wealthy elite and big corporations that want to cut public services so they have more for themselves.”



In District 11, our own Terry Clements, a teacher at Columbus School, won the special election for a seat in the County Legislature. Terry had been endorsed by every major labor organization in the region, including the Westchester Labor Council, (of which FUSE is a proud member), the AFL-CIO, Teamsters and their work on her behalf helped make the difference getting out the vote and making her campaign victorious.

FUSE Launches Re-Enrollment Initiative



In the next few weeks, FUSE building representatives in all of our buildings and worksites will be launching a campaign to have all of our members re-commit our union by signing membership cards. This all out effort to have members stand up for union values by signing union membership cards is part of larger campaign by NYSUT in all of its locals to prepare for the Supreme Court decision on Janus vs. AFSCME due out in June.

The new membership card has been designed by NYSUT in an effort to get out ahead of any changes that may come from a negative decision from the Supreme Court. It allows members to update contact information to insure accuracy and gives the union a head start if the Supreme Court insists that previously signed union cards are no longer valid.

Check out this [video](#) to learn more about how a decision overruling “fair share” payments can cripple public employee unions’ effectiveness.

Contract Negotiations

The union and school district have been meeting regularly to negotiate a successor agreement to our current collective bargaining agreement which expires on June 30. Last week the union team and the district representatives met for several hours, and this week the FUSE team will be meeting to plan and strategize for our next joint meeting scheduled for May 7.



Since negotiations began in February, the union and district has made steady progress towards reaching an agreement that could be ratified in June. That being said, however, the most significant issues -- those matters related to finances -- have not yet had a substantial discussion. Across-the-board raises, increases to stipends and event pay, health insurance and welfare fund contributions are all issues that will be brought to the negotiating table in the next few sessions.

Both sides have been reviewing the terms of other recent contract settlements in the region to be prepared for these conversations. Recent agreements between locals in our region with their school districts are used by both sides to set parameters and serve as a kind of “reality check” on the conversations at the table.

One “elephant in the room” during the contract discussions in the next few weeks is the fate of the school budget proposal. Without debating the “pros” and “cons” of the budget being presented to the community on May 15, it should be obvious to members that a defeated budget would have serious negative consequences for our contract negotiations and our hopes for competitive across the board raises and other financial issues related to our employment.