



News & Updates March 12, 2018

Lobbying State Lawmakers to Reform the APPR

The FUSE Professional Issues Committee is keenly aware the moratorium on state test scores ends at the end of next year. With this deadline looming, the committee has been busy meeting with legislators to discuss the APPR and the negative impacts teachers are experiencing in the classroom with the ultimate goal of repealing or at least severely eroding Education Law 3012-d, the legislation which mandates the current evaluation process.



Our goal, and the goal of our state affiliate NYSUT, is to return the evaluation process to a locally negotiated process which had been the practice until the state mandated the changes.

Prior to the mid-winter recess, members of the committee have met with Senator Stewart-Cousins, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and Assemblyman Steve Otis. Assemblyman Otis is a member of the Assembly education committee.

It is important to note that all of the lawmakers shared our belief that the law is not working. They also listened as we shared with them the negative impacts this evaluation process, including the Danielson rubric, is having on instruction and ultimately kids. They promised to bring this information back to their colleagues to help others understand the urgency for change.

In addition, Assemblyman Otis is working to facilitate a meeting with Regent Judith Johnson. This would be extremely helpful since all the legislators seemed to want the Regents to take the lead on initiating changes to the APPR.

The committee has now shifted gears and is working to facilitate the upcoming Opt- Out campaign which has been the main driver for changes to this APPR, and which served to force the moratorium on using state test scores for teacher evaluations. If we want to see change, FUSE knows we must continue to have large opt out numbers.

Opt out campaign begins this weekend. If anyone lives in New Rochelle and would like a lawn sign, or better yet, a banner for display on their property, please contact Mary Breslin.



The Professional Issues Committee is chaired by Cheryl Smith from ALMS. Members of the committee are Mary Breslin, Filomena Daniele, Audrey Hill, Jennifer Hofstetter, Antoinette Koehler, Terry Lee, Tom McTigue and Marisa Raniolo.

... And speaking of the APPR - Domain 4 Finalized!

After some initial confusion, and after several meetings between the union and school district administrators, Domain 4 has been finalized for the 2017-2018 year. **The most important “takeaway” is that there are no changes in the scoring of Domain 4 for the 2017-2018 school year.**

- FUSE and the district have agreed for the 2017-2018 school year to a post observation domain 4 question sheet to be discussed at the post observation meeting.
- This sheet does **NOT** require any written response and **cannot** negatively impact the Domain 4 score of a teacher.
- Domain 4 scoring will continue to be based **solely** on the modified domain 4 which has been used in the past. (The modified Domain 4 rubric is linked below)
- Unless you have been notified about administrative concerns in any of the areas listed in the modified Domain 4 rubric, you should receive a Highly Effective (4) for this Domain.

[W Domain 4 Danielson rubric appr.doc](#)

New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence is Looking to Hear from Teachers and Staff!

The mission of the New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence is to “develop, fund and implement high-quality educational and enrichment programming that enhance the school experience and help students thrive and succeed along their educational journey.” For over 20 years now the Fund has played an important role in providing numerous opportunities - from Poetry Out Loud, to Civics Symposium to ACT/SAT prep courses and more -- that make such a positive difference in our schools for our extraordinary, diverse student body.

This year the Fund's inaugural grantmaking program this year was an overwhelming success. The Fund received 40 grant applications (most of which were from teachers) for valuable programs that would enrich our students' education.

The Board of Directors of the Fund would like to build on that success and are looking to hear from teachers and staff members The Fund is requesting teachers and other staff members to share ideas for programs and plans that would enhance the educational programs offered by the school district. They are eager to hear more from our teachers and staff feel what programs or initiatives would be of value for our students - particularly in the area of improving the culture and climates at our schools.

Please take the opportunity to contact Andrea Berman, Executive Director of the Fund at aberman@nredlearn.org to help sustain and expand this important partnership for our students and our schools.



2018 FUSE Scholarships

Every year, the FUSE awards up to ten scholarships of \$1,000 each to the children of FUSE members who are graduating high school in June, 2018.

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of demonstrated academic excellence, community service and participation in extra or co-curricular activities. Applications are reviewed by a committee of FUSE members in April, and recipients are notified in May.

Applications are available now in the FUSE office -- please call or email our office administrator Rose Colasuonno to receive one. Completed applications and supporting documentation (transcripts, letter of recommendation, essay) must be received in the FUSE office no later than April 16, 2018.



Looking for a Worthy Cause to Support?



The Westchester Pancreatic Research Walk is on April 15, 2018. This annual event raised almost \$1,000,000 last year and had 3000 walkers! Be part of this amazing effort and celebrate the progress we've made in fighting pancreatic cancer and the hope we have for the future! If you are unable to walk with us, please consider making a donation to support our team.

FUSE is hoping to sponsor a team of walkers and have a visible presence at this amazing event. If you would like to join the team -- *reFUSE To Give Up*-- contact Jeanine Shields at jshields@redlearn.org or go to the [team website](#) for more information or to make a donation. You can learn more about the walk from its [Facebook](#) page.

[THE LUSTGARTEN FOUNDATION](#) is America's largest private foundation dedicated solely to funding pancreatic cancer research. Our mission is to advance the scientific and medical research related to the diagnosis, treatment, cure and prevention of pancreatic cancer. To fulfill this mission, the Foundation has supported more than 200 research projects at nearly 60 medical and research centers worldwide. Since its inception, the Foundation has directed \$125 million to research and assembled the best scientific minds with the hope that one day, a cure can be found.

With an overall survival rate of just eight percent over five years, pancreatic cancer has no early detection tests, no effective long-term treatments, and, unless the cancer is surgically removed in its earliest stages, no cure. An estimated 53,000 Americans will be diagnosed this year alone, and the disease is projected to become the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in 2016. And, with only 2 percent of National Cancer Institute funding directed at pancreatic cancer, the research supported by The Lustgarten Foundation plays a critical role in understanding the disease and raising awareness and funding for innovative research.