To: Raul Garcia

From: Julie Beatrice

Subject: NYSCEA September 20th 2019 Meeting

September 25th 2019

The New York State Council of Educational Associates (NYSCEA) held its September meeting in Latham, New York on September 20, 2019. The following is a summary of the day’s events.

A panel of state assembly legislators, Phil Steck, John Mc Donald and Mary Beth Walsh spoke to the issue of education and their support in the State Assembly. John Mc Donald stated that it was a decent year for education funding and that a lot of little things got done in the State Assembly and that the state supports all three public, private and charter schools. The issue of vaccines and a State Bill # 2 was passed. Mary Beth Walsh spoke to the issue that foundation aid increased and that the vaping issue was a big issue. By the Governor’s Executive Order a ban on vaping went into effect. The school safety issue was discussed. Phil Steck discussed the changes in our economic system that is bringing about increases in bullying, suicide and that NY State took a look at how to report bullying and make school safer. The safe schools task force was reconvened. Phil Steck discussed the Red Flag Bill and the necessity for legislation which supports safer schools.

State Education discussed the loss of staff at State Education and how State Education should remain independent from the Governor’s Office and its overseeing the operation and directions of state education. The governor does not put adequate money in state education to support it mandates.

The New York State National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) was represented by, Tina Yun Lee, a Community Education and Outreach Manager. She presented a power point on is NAMI and its function and organizational chart; how NAMI educates and disseminates educational information which supports and raises awareness to what is mental illness. NAMI’s mission as well as raising awareness are to destigmatizing mental illness and provide support, information and services to those who suffer from mental illness and to support family awareness.

The NYSCEA had a Public Safety Official speak to the new legislation, what it states and the time frame work that is in place for students who have not been vaccinated to get vaccinated. Students that do not get vaccinated are not allowed to be in schools and will then need to be home schooled. The public health representative spoke about the Public Health Law and the vaccination concerns and how the new legislation was rolled out. Members reported some of the statistics on how many of their students were now being home schooled as a result of the new vaccination public healthy law. There is information of State Education Immunization FAQ.

Mary Beth Casey from NYSED Director of Office of Curriculum and instruction discussed Phase II - Building Capacity - Where Are We? A Guide for Aligning Local Curriculum to the Next Generation Learning Standards. She also discussed ELA, Math, Science and Physical Education learning Standards. In   
 Social Studies she discussed, what are the definitions of civic readiness and how that has been incorporated into the curriculum Social Studies framework.

Mary Beth Casey also discussed the Middle Level Schools to Watch Designees Update and spoke about the schools that recently had received national recognition. She ended discussing the Perkins Act and the allocation of money to states to improve and expand career and technical education. She told the group that there has been a 93 percent turnover in State Education staff in the career and technical education division. The year 6/2018 saw the beginning in Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century. State Education has until 4/2020 to submit the final plans to the federal government.

Tope Akmyemi spoke about Education Law S2.d Strengthening Data Security and Privacy in NYS Educational Agency. She discussed how the Statue was in 2014 and went into effect a year later. While no one at that time seemed concerned about the software and cyber-attacks, the recent malware attacks on 10 school districts have shown other districts the need to change the culture and climate to tighten up on security measures. Of importance was that State Education saw the necessity to tighten up on and control what teachers download to stop malware attacks.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Beatrice, LCSW

NYSSSWA Representative