

SUSPENSION

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATOR BURKE

Re: Support for Senate Legislation to Repeal the Annual Professional Performance Review of Teachers and Principals

WHEREAS, in 2010, legislation was enacted (Chapter 103 of the Laws of 2010), prescribing changes to the annual performance evaluation of all teachers and principals; and

WHEREAS, Under the law, school districts and BOCES are required to conduct an Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) for each teacher and principal, resulting in a rating of “highly effective,” “effective,” “developing,” or “ineffective”; and

WHEREAS, the 2015-16 New York State budget included provisions that substantially altered the APPR system, including greater reliance on state standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, teachers unions oppose the use of state assessment in APPR and have advocated for a fair appropriate evaluation system that fosters professional development, removes the punitive aspects of the state regulations in Education Law §3012-d and returns local control; and

WHEREAS, the current system has angered and frustrated educators, parents and students, with the misuse of standardized tests and the state’s over-reliance on testing creating new issues; and

WHEREAS, many parents and educators believe there are more effective ways to evaluate educators than to use algorithms that generate mysterious “growth scores” while subjecting students to exhausting tests that neither inform instruction nor accurately measure achievement; and

WHEREAS, in a vote of 133-1, the New York State Assembly approved legislation, Assembly Bill A10475, to address deficiencies and problems with the teacher and principal evaluation system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature requests that the New York State Senate expeditiously adopt companion legislation to A.10475 to address the deficiencies in the Annual Professional Performance Review process which will benefit educators as well as students; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the Western New York delegation of the New York State Senate and Assembly, and to MaryEllen Elia, New York State Commissioner of Education.

Fiscal Impact: None.