

Freeport Teachers Association

30 South Ocean Avenue Suite 305

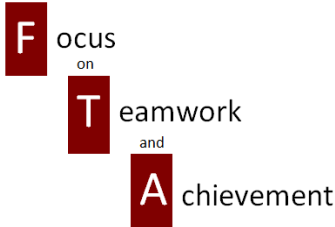
Freeport, New York 11520

(516) 442-0373

(516) 442-0374 (fax)

freeportta@optonline.net

www.freeportteachers.org



Proudly educating the students of Freeport

March 9, 2015

President

Stuart Napear

1st Vice President

Sue Caravousanos

2nd Vice President

Aneesah Abdus-Shakur

Treasurer

Eileen Shultis

Secretary

Lorrie Greene

Membership

Ronald Grinnell

Grievance

Richard Sells

Publicity

Eileen Shultis

Professional Development

Amy Lederer

Retiree Representative

Joyce Fischer

Political Action

Diane Saunders

Building Coordinators

Columbus Ave School

Catherine Byrne

Archer Street School

Deborah LaCorte

Bayview Ave School

Cindy Misrock

Giblyn School

Amy Lederer

New Visions School

Michael DeGennaro

Atkinson School

Cheryl Johnson

Dodd Middle School

Jimmy Jones, Jr.

Freeport High School

Meredith Jones

Dear Parents of Freeport Students,

The Freeport Teachers Association (FTA) has a long history of supporting, nurturing, caring, and teaching the children of the Freeport Public Schools community. As you are aware, the enactment of "No Child Left Behind" created a major shift in the use and emphasis of high-stakes testing. Our members are very unhappy with the increased use of standardized testing that has occurred over the last 10 years.

Like most of the teachers in New York State, our members question the efficacy and reliability of these standardized high-stakes tests in evaluating our students' progress. We believe our students are more than a number and that multiple methods of assessment should be used to measure our students' progress. We believe that too much valuable time in the classroom is devoted to preparing for these high-stakes tests. With the increase in time spent on test-prep, coupled with the introduction of the Common Core Standards, the focus of teaching has shifted, leaving little time for the "extras".

The FTA has signed a petition that asks in part for the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) to lobby the NYS Education Department to eliminate high-stakes testing. In addition, the petition asks NYSUT to ask its members to refuse to let their own children take the Grade 3-8 assessments.

Our members are bound to follow the directives of the Freeport Public Schools administration or be insubordinate and face disciplinary actions, and the FTA recognizes that asking parents to refuse to have their children take the grade 3-8 assessments would be wrong. However, we strongly believe that parents have the right to decide what is in their children's best interests. We encourage you to be as knowledgeable as possible about the tests being given and your options as a parent. We encourage you to visit your elected officials and ask what they are doing with respect to high-stakes testing and let them know how you feel.

Stuart Napear
President
Freeport Teachers Association

Affiliations:

New York State United Teachers

American Federation of Teachers

National Education Association

AFL-CIO