



PCT PLEDGE

**Plainview-Old Bethpage
Congress of Teachers**
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THE ELECTION

By PCT President Morty Rosenfeld

I can't remember an election that I felt as strongly about as I do this November 7th.

This election is our nation's chance to change its direction. Should we not begin to do so, my view of the future of our country will be dimmed substantially.

Each morning it seems, the news from our ill-conceived war in Iraq grows worse. Our days begin too often with news that yet more young Americans have been lost in a struggle that makes less sense as time goes on. A recent poll of Iraqis suggests that over 60% of them think it is appropriate to kill Americans. I have no doubt that many Iraqis long for the relative peace and security of the days of Saddam Hussein.

Here at home our nation is mired in debt, our public schools are under attack, high paying jobs continue to flee the country, our personal freedoms are eroding, health care is affordable by fewer and fewer Americans, the Congress is increasingly dancing to the rhythm of a corporate elite and our middle class, the backbone of any democracy, continues to shrink, all this while our leader tells us we're doing fine.

Colleagues, if you care about the future of public education, make sure you vote!

If you weep for the death of over 2800 young Americans and the maiming of thousands of others, make sure you vote!

If you again wish to be a proud citizen of a country that is a beacon of hope to the less fortunate of the world, make sure you vote!

If you wish to be a part of reclaiming our nation from its descent into greed and corruption, make sure you vote.

A list of PCT endorsed candidates appears at the right. A word about Comptroller Alan Hevesi. The PCT continues to endorse him. While he is a damaged candidate, we cannot afford to have a very conservative republican in charge of the state pension system.

NYSUT & PCT ENDORSED CANDIDATES

GOVERNOR
Elliot Spitzer

Lt. GOVERNOR
David Patterson

COMPTROLLER
Alan Hevesi

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Andrew Cuomo

UNITED STATES SENATE
Hillary Rodham Clinton

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
1st CD Tim Bishop
2nd CD Steve Israel
3rd CD David Mejias
4th CD Carolyn McCarthy
5th CD Gary Ackerman

NEW YORK STATE SENATE
1st SD Kenneth LaValle
2nd SD John Flanagan
3rd SD Caesar Trunzo
4th SD Owen Johnson
5th SD Carl Marcellino
6th SD Kemp Hannon
7th SD Michael Balboni
8th SD Charles Fuschillo
9th SD Dean Skelos

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
1st AD Marc Alessi
2nd AD Fred Thiel
3rd AD Patricia Eddington
4th AD Steven Englebright
5th AD Ginny Fields
6th AD Philip Ramos
7th AD No Endorsement
8th AD Philip Boyle
9th AD Andrew Raia
10th AD James Conte
11th AD Robert Sweeney

WEINSTEIN NAMED PCT FRIEND OF EDUCATION

At the annual PCT party to welcome our newest members and to honor our June retirees, our union from time to time honors an outstanding person who has made an unusual contribution to our school district. This year's honoree is Lori Weinstein, past president PTA Council.



The officers of the PCT chose to honor Ms. Weinstein based on their experiences working with her over the years that she has been a part of the school

community. The plaque presented to her by PCT President Morty Rosenfeld cited Lori "...for her tireless work on behalf of the children of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District, her advocacy for academic excellence and high academic standards, her deep appreciation for the work of the teachers and educational support professionals of our school district and for being an example to all of giving back to one's community."

GRIEVANCES

Over the past few days PCT Grievance Officer Judi Alexanderson has reported the filing of a number of violations of our contract or what are called grievances.

These violations include the following:

1 - The assignment of members of the Substitute Unit of the PCT to cover the high school in school suspension center, a job previously done by teachers but cut from the budget last year. The theory of our case is that substitutes have to substitute for an absent teacher.

2- The assignment of the high school teacher who assists the school with student attendance for three (3) periods of his teaching assignment to three (3) periods in the in school suspension center, both jobs to be done at the same time.

3- The assignment of members of the Substitute Unit of the PCT to lunch room duty during period 5 and hall duty period 9 at the POB Middle School. These substitutes don't seem to be substituting for anyone either.

4 - The failure of the District to assign a certified and qualified member to the drama cadets position for which he applied and the assigning of that position to an outsider to the district. This position and all other extra-curricular positions belong to the membership of the teacher bargaining unit of the PCT.

Judi also reports that the PCT has filed demands with the district to negotiate over some of these matters in that the rules of the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) require that they do so. If these negotiations prove unfruitful, the PCT will be filing improper practice charges with PERB.

PCT SUPPORTS PTA BLOOD DRIVE

The PCT is a proud supporter of the annual blood drive of the PTA Council. The Council has set the goal of increasing the donations to their blood drive by 50% this year. The drive will take place on Thursday, December 7 from 11 AM to 9:15 PM at the Plainview Middle School.

PCT members are encouraged to donate blood. As we approach the holiday season, blood

donations tend to fall causing life-threatening shortages at area hospitals. Let's help the PTA reach its goal.

OBSERVATIONS

The administrators of some of our schools have been talking to their staffs about alternatives to formal observations.

The PCT has a long standing position of believing observations of tenured teachers to be essentially meaningless, having little to do with the improvement of education and much to do with administrative coercion. In fact, the officers of our union have raised this subject with the Superintendent in the past but we were unable to come to any agreement on a suitable alternative.

If we are again to raise this subject, PCT members are advised that it must be done in an official manner. We cannot allow an evaluation process to develop that is different from building to building and or perhaps even within a building.

The evaluation of teachers is part of our contract and therefore must be negotiated. As PCT President Morty Rosenfeld said at a recent SRC meeting at the Stratford Road School, "while we don't like the process, we need to remember that 99.9% of the observations that are written are positive. It is very helpful to a PCT advocate who has to represent a teacher who has had a lapse of judgement to have a file filled with good observations to point to in the teacher's defense."

DISCIPLINE

The officers of the PCT have been frequently hearing from members about their perception that they are working with more and more unruly children. In an attempt to get a handle on this issue, they have put it on the agenda for the November PCT Executive Board meeting. Members are encourage to share their thoughts on the subject with their SRC Reps.

CREDITS FOR SALE

Adelphi University - 3 graduate credits. Call Jana Guskin 516-721-2688.

Hofstra University - 1.5 graduate credits. Call Annmarie LeBlanc 516-586-4617.