

9/18/20 Coalition Meeting Minutes

Attendance Howie Maffucci, Don Pryor, Mark Hare, Don Bartalo, Connie Flahive, Vicki Robertson, John Strazzabosco, Peter McWalters, Maurice Haskins, David Hursh, Kilolo Moyo-White, Jamie Condon, John Boutet, Jeanette Deauterman, Dan Drmacich

Discussion & Recommendations:

1. Jeannette Deuterman, the Long Island Coordinator for "Long Island Opt-Out," presented to us on the goals & accomplishments of the Long Island anti-high-stakes standardized testing organization & her recent discussions with new NYSED interim Commissioner, Betty Rosa, all of which were very positive for influencing short & long term change in the NYS public education system.

2. David Hursh also announced that the book, "Opting Out," co-authored by David and Jeanette & several others, has been awarded the American Education Studies Association's "Critics Choice" award. Coalition member, Henry Padron, has the book available at his South Ave. bookstore, as does Amazon & David's car trunk for sale.

3. There was general agreement to support the following actions and recommendations:

A. Our Coalition and the Long Island Opt-Out organization need to work collaboratively, whenever possible on mutual agenda items. We should share meeting minutes & request feedback whenever appropriate,

B. Our Coalition should consider a campaign to help reduce the impact of high-stakes standardized testing, by lobbying for area-school districts to not use Regents Test scores to compute GPAs.

C. Our Coalition should help organize Rochester-area school/parent/teacher meetings with Jeanette & Coalition parent members presenting/facilitating to increase local opt-out numbers.

D. All Coalition and Long Island members should read the policy position paper by the Future of Learning Policy organization, which was shared with us by former RCSD Supt. & Rhode Island Education Commissioner, Peter McWalters. Peter & I believe there is much value in the implementation of this policy in NYS, through collaboration with Betty Rosa. Peter has offered to be a resource for Jeanette, our Coalition & the Commissioner in lobbying for this transformative policy, written by Linda Darling-Hammond & others.

E. Our Coalition should explore with Betty the large number of RCSD schools placed in "Receivership," which apparently she is opposed to.

*If I missed anything, please add and send to "Reply to All."

4. Bart took time to promote & explain the production of the Hummingbird Theater's virtual production of the "Amish Project," which is part of the locally sponsored Fringe Festival. Tickets are available through <https://rochesterfringe.com/>

5. Coalition members will meet again at 3:00 on Friday, Sept. 25th, by Zoom, to view Robin DiAngelo's presentation on "White Fragility," and participate in a facilitated discussion afterwards, as part of our goals to achieve more racial equity & justice within our Coalition & the Rochester community. Howie will send out Zoom invitations.