



# GNTA *Report*

## Your Vote Counts. Every Vote Counts.

On Monday, April 24, GNTA will hold elections in all buildings to select its Officers and Directors for the next two years, as well as delegates to the 2024-25 NYSUT and 2023-24 AFT conventions. This issue of the *GNTA Report* is dedicated to bringing you the biographical information of all the candidates.

Who is eligible to vote? Only Teachers (Full-Time, Part-Time, Hourly), Nurses, Psychologists, Social Workers, Guidance Counselors, and Physical and Occupational Therapists vote for the Officers and Directors of the Great Neck Teachers Association, but all GNTA members (including the Office Staff Association, Paraprofessional Association, Per Diem Chapter, and Adult Education Chapter) vote for the NYSUT & AFT Delegates and Alternates who will represent GNTA.

Below you will find the candidates for Officers and Directors. The only two contested elections are for the positions of President and High School Director.

### **GNTA REPORT**

#### **Editor**

Frank Bua

### **GREAT NECK TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

NYSUT, AFT-NEA, AFL-CIO #2686

The Cottage

343 Lakeville Road

Great Neck, NY 11020

(516) 829-9070

[www.gnteachers.net](http://www.gnteachers.net)  
[gnteachers@gmail.com](mailto:gnteachers@gmail.com)

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

#### **President**

Jim Daszenski

#### **VP, Professional Rights & Responsibilities**

Jennifer Snyder

#### **VP, Administration**

Frank Bua

#### **VP, Contract Improvement**

Kim Semder

#### **VP, Professional Development**

Daniel Isaac

#### **Treasurer**

Maxine Bazzani

#### **Elementary Director, PreK-2**

Jessica Kleinhaut

#### **Elementary Director, 3-5**

Luci Legotti

#### **Middle School Director**

Patti Crisafulli

#### **High School Director**

Cindy Pavlic

#### **President**

*Jim Daszenski\**

*Dennis Mooney*

#### **Vice President for Professional Rights & Responsibilities**

*Jennifer Snyder*

#### **Vice President for Administration**

*Frank Bua*

#### **Vice President for Contract Improvement**

*Kim Semder*

#### **Vice President for Professional Development**

*Dan Isaac*

#### **Treasurer**

*Maxine Bazzani*

#### **Elementary Director, PreK-2**

*Jessica Kleinhaut*

#### **Elementary Director, 3-5**

*Luci Legotti*

#### **Middle School Director**

*Patti Crisafulli*

#### **High School Director**

*Cindy Pavlic\**

*Eric Ragot*



Below you will find the candidates for NYSUT/AFT Delegates and their Alternates. Our Retired Educators Chapter (REC) and our OSA are entitled to one Delegate each; the Paraprofessionals are entitled to two Delegates, and GNTA is entitled to eight. As you can see, this election is uncontested.

Patricia Crisafulli / Gillian Disney

Jim Daszenski / Kirsten Kuhn

Colleen Flores (not AFT) / no alternate

Joan Greenberg / John Motchkavitz

Luci Legotti (not AFT) / Jessica Kleinhaut (not AFT)

Cindy Pavlic (not AFT) / no alternate

Jennifer Snyder (not AFT) / Frank Bua (not AFT)

Bill Toto / Jeff Bernstein (REC)

Robert Jiménez (not AFT) / No alternate (Paras)

## Statements from the Candidates

### JIM DASZENSKI

- *President*
- *NYSUT & AFT Delegate*

Since 2016, I have had the tremendous privilege of serving as the President of the Great Neck Teachers Association, and I am asking for your support to continue in the role for the next two years. The GNTA Presidency is a demanding year-round job, often requiring the President to be on duty nights, weekends, and throughout the summer. I've only been able to do it with the support of my family, the Executive Board, and, of course, members like you. And I'm humbled by what we've accomplished together.

While our current contract is far from perfect, **it was approved by 92% of the membership, and is the first and only collective bargaining agreement negotiated by me as President.** I'm also proud that we were able to ratify it more than a year before the then current contract expired—a first in GNTA's history. In addition to salary increases commensurate to other similar locals at the time, this agreement made permanent significant off-schedule money that was set to expire, increased district funding for non-salary items that had been static for 10 years, and froze what we contribute to our health care for four years. On my watch, we've also made some remarkable improvements to our contract *outside* of negotiations: over the past two years, we've secured an additional \$400,000 for the Benefit Trust Fund, and we achieved across-the-board salary increases for our nurses to move them near the top of the scale in comparison to all nurses in Nassau County. As you know, we're in negotiations right now fighting to do the same for our teachers and all the other educators covered by the GNTA contract.

...continued on the next page

## Summer Scholarships

The 2023 Summer Scholarships have been announced! Brought to you by GNTA and the Great Neck Public Schools, Summer Scholarships are available for courses or programs that are subject-matter oriented. The application deadline is April 25, 2023, and an advisory committee will announce the final selections by May 15. Get your application by clicking [HERE!](#)

## Mark Your Calendar



### Board of Education Meeting (Adoption of the Budget)

Tuesday, April 18 - 7:30 PM  
North High School

### Delegate Assembly Meeting

Thursday, April 27 - 4 PM  
South High School

### GNTA Elections

Monday, April 24  
All schools

## Save the Date



On Wednesday, May 24 at 4:00 PM, we will honor this year's retirees and celebrate the close of another school year. Please join us at Westbury Manor for the festivities!

When COVID hit in March 2020, I negotiated a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the district that made Great Neck the first in Nassau County to begin remote learning, while still protecting the privacy and the professional rights of our members. **NYSUT called GNTA's MOA the "gold standard" for every other district struggling to get their remote learning program up and running** in those dark days. Last fall, when the district unfairly and without notice reduced our benefits under the Family Medical Leave Act, we fought back publicly with the help of our members and achieved an MOA to reclaim an additional six weeks of unpaid leave for those in need. Our present negotiations are addressing this issue for the longterm as we speak. **I'm proud to say I'm the most fiscally conservative President GNTA has ever had.** In seven years, I've never raised your GNTA dues. Through attrition, I've cut the administrative staff at the Cottage in half, and I work closely with GNTA's Treasurer every year to craft an organizational budget that respects your hard-earned money. We've increased our union communications, so that today's GNTA is more transparent and attentive to our members' needs than ever. I hope you've seen our detailed email updates after every negotiating session.

A few years ago, GNTA won a grievance against the district for denying personal days to two of our members who requested time off for religious observance. As we speak, I'm personally working on two more grievances with one of our teachers who was unfairly dismissed from their longtime coaching position. This is the work we do protecting and supporting our members 365 days a year.

This is an unprecedented time for GNTA and for our district. We're negotiating a new contract while also assisting in the search for a new Superintendent. Soon there will be a school budget vote and the possibility of elections for two contested seats on the Board of Education. This is not the time for a new President to begin their on-the-job training. **I'm the only candidate with the experience, integrity, and knowledge of the position to guide our organization through the many challenges ahead. I would be honored to have your support on April 24.**

## DENNIS MOONEY

### ■ President

I have been a Social Studies, Business, and Economics teacher at Great Neck South High School for the past 20 years. Prior to coming to Great Neck, I worked at Benjamin Cardozo High School for 3 years. During those first 3 years, I began to get involved with the union in order to address some poor building work conditions.

During my 20 years at Great Neck, I have served as co-chair of BRC twice, I have been a member of 3 CICs, I have served on BCG, and I have volunteered on the Benefit Trust Committee. In 2016, I was the designated spokesperson for GNTA at the annual budget meeting to question the Board of Education on that year's budget and proposed cuts.

I was fortunate enough to be a member of the GNTA when my first 2 contracts were 5%, 5%, 4%, 3.5%, 3.5% and 3%, and those numbers were for EVERY member of the Union. We need to get back to those days where we negotiated raises for everyone. If elected I promise never to present a contract to the membership unless it includes raises for everyone—from the teacher just starting out in Great Neck to the 30 year veteran. I hope you will join me as we make our goal and our slogan: **1 = 1.**



**Did you know that it is illegal for GNTA (or any public union) to use its members' dues for political action? We rely on your voluntary donations through **VOTE-COPE** to support pro-public school and pro-labor agendas. Please consider a modest donation per paycheck to support this important cause.**



**We welcome your feedback about the GNTA Report:**  
[fbua@greatneck.k12.ny.us](mailto:fbua@greatneck.k12.ny.us)

## JENNIFER SNYDER

- *Vice President for Professional Rights and Responsibilities*
- *NYSUT Delegate*

As Vice President for Professional Rights and Responsibilities, my primary role is to ensure that both employers and employees adhere to the language in our contract. Each and every one of the articles have been negotiated and agreed upon. It is both our right and our responsibility to follow them. As a member of the GNTA Executive Board, I am steadfast in my determination to work with this incredible team of union leaders as we continue to negotiate a fair and just contract.

I wear many hats in GNTA and at NYSUT. I have been a delegate to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System for over 20 years and a member of NYSUT's Pension and Retirement Committee. I work to defend our pension and to educate our members on the intricacies of the system. We are fighting hard in Albany to fix Tier 6 and will continue to use our Vote/Cope dollars to lobby accordingly. As chairperson of the GNTA Social Justice Committee and a member of NYSUT's Civil and Human Rights Committee, it continues to be my honor to work together with colleagues and the community to meet the needs of our most disadvantaged students and their families. We hope to expand our Steering Committee this Spring and to move this work forward.

I am proud to represent Great Neck as a delegate to NYSUT's Representative Assembly. It is here that our union's legislative package is debated and voted upon, and action plans designed. At these conventions we, as delegates, are able to meet with teacher leaders from locals around Nassau County as well as around the state. We also have the opportunity to hear from leaders in education and celebrate the honors of our colleagues from around the state. I am a proud GNTA member, and respectfully ask for your continued support as Vice President for Professional Rights

& Responsibilities and as a Delegate to NYSUT RA.

## FRANK BUA

- *Vice President for Administration*

I'm Frank Bua, and it has been a privilege to represent you all on the GNTA Executive Board as Vice President for Administration for the past seven years.

Before joining the Executive Board, I had separate three-year stints as BRC and BCG chair at South Middle. I also served on the building's Shared Decision Making Committee, and continue to serve on the District's SDM Steering Committee. Additionally, for the past eight years, I have been an outspoken advocate for educators on the district's APPR committee, and have represented the district during the annual NYSTRS convention in Saratoga.

Through my experiences, I've come to appreciate that a leader knows when to listen and when to speak, builds relationships, is self-reflective, appreciates the nuance between speaking strategically and carrying a big stick, and balances a focus on the big picture with the ability and foresight to navigate turbulent waters with finesse. Leadership involves more than the ability to put out fires but also the hindsight to help prevent some of them from starting in the first place. An effective leader must be anticipatory, recognize patterns, listen attentively, and understand how others think. That's how you

I've spent the past fourteen years advocating for the membership, capitalizing on opportunity and finding a constructive pathway forward. I've learned how to best spend my capital, when to be nuanced and when to be direct, and how to play the long game. People who have worked with me know that while I will always work to build bridges, I am anything but a rubber stamp. I have a history and willingness to have the tough, frank conversations and put in the effort necessary to advance the needs of the general membership.

For over a dozen years, I've served as an Executive Board liaison to the UPTC meeting and I've stood before the Board of Education to speak truth to power and demonstrate that we are as organized as union members as we are effective as educators. And for the past half of year, but really from the moment we settled our last CBA in 2019, I have been analyzing contract history, studying local, state and national trends in education and employment, and coordinating data to assist in my role as GNTA's Chief Negotiator.

When the district appeared to be less than forthright with data projections during our last negotiations, I reached out to the Office of Congressional Budget Management in order to ensure that we had our facts straight. When the State presented a tax-cap formula that provided for zero increase in the tax base growth factor, I lobbied the Comptrollers office and demanded a recalculation, which wound up happening state-wide. Staying informed requires consistent effort, work that I'm always willing to put in.

In closing, I believe I have the experience, perspective and commitment to steadfastly fulfill the duties of this position. I hope that I've earned your respect, support and vote.

## KIM SEMDER

- *VP for Contract Improvement*

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your Vice President for Contract Improvement for the past ten years, and I am seeking your endorsement to continue to serve in this role. As the second most senior Executive Board member, I believe that the relationships I have built with people around the district and my experience and personal demeanor will help to maintain our strength as a union.

Our current contract is about to expire and we are in the midst of negotiating a new contract. In the year leading up to this point, I served as the Chairperson for the Contract Improvement

(Kim Semder, continued)

Committee. This committee of over twenty people had the charge of communicating with our membership to determine which issues were top priority to address during negotiations. Our meetings were frequent and, at times, our conversations were not easy, but we were continually calm and respectful. Despite not always agreeing, we were able to reach consensus and create a proposal that serves all members. GNTA is also working diligently to actively engage our members in new and creative ways. I have been actively involved in the Social Outreach Committee, which hosts a variety of fun events, such as Bowling Night and Color Run, that bring together our membership and the Great Neck community at large. What's more, these events help raise funds for students to attend our summer programs. It has been especially rewarding to be a part of such an important team.

In 2008, I was elected to serve on the Executive Board as High School Director. During my five years in that role, I proved to be a level-headed resource for teachers when they were unsure how to handle difficult situations with administration. As VP for Contract Improvement, I have assured that all GNTA voices are heard and work to maintain our salaries and benefits and improve our working conditions. During my fifteen-year tenure, I have assisted in negotiating four, soon to be five, contracts. In addition to being the Chairperson for the CIC, I streamlined the summer scholarship process, making it easy to understand and more user-friendly. Additionally, I serve as a member of the SDM Steering Committee and the APPR Committee.

I believe that my knowledge, experience, proven record of leadership and commitment to move our union forward in the future, makes me the best candidate for the position of Vice President for Contract Improvement, and I ask for your endorsement so I can continue to best represent our members' interests.

## DAN ISAAC

### ■ VP for Professional Development

My name is Dan Isaac. I am a Social Studies teacher at South Middle School, currently completing my second year as GNTA VP for Professional Development, fifth year as GNTA Middle School Director. In this time, I have streamlined the process of selection committee appointments to improve the level of collaboration and coordination between GNTA, Phipps, and Clover Drive, and have spearheaded an update of our Selection Guidelines. And more recently, I have taken on a central role in data analysis in our preparation for the current contract negotiations. I am even-tempered, hardworking, and well respected within my building and throughout the district as an advocate for the needs of both students and faculty. And I humbly ask for your support.

I believe that my range of knowledge on district and building-level issues is what makes me an effective member of the GNTA Executive Board. I previously served as GNTA Middle School Director for seven years, and have served as an 8th grade team leader at South Middle School for the past eleven years. I also served as the GNPS Summer Program Assistant Principal for four years, as co-chairperson of South Middle's Professional Development Group, as a teacher member of the UPTC and on its Legislative Committee. I have participated in Internal Organizing Committee (IOC) training at NYSUT's Long Island offices, and previously served as one of Great Neck's four elected NYSTRS delegates. I have cultivated relationships with administrators and support personnel throughout the district, gained an understanding of the inner workings of things; I know who to call to get things done, and I am not afraid to speak truth to power while keeping things both respectful and productive. I am proud of the work that we as a union have done during my tenure, and I hope that you will allow me to continue to do such work going forward.

## MAXINE BAZZANI

### ■ Treasurer

In today's seemingly uncertain financial climate, more and more people find themselves concerned about where their money is going. They want to know that their contributions are being used to benefit the bigger picture, and are being managed responsibly. As a member of your Executive Board, we work hard to support an organization that prides itself on transparency. You entrust the Executive Board with your hard-earned dollars. Your trust in us imbues us with a huge responsibility and is not to be taken lightly. In my opinion, a more informed membership is a strong and active one.

As Treasurer, I am responsible for the day-to-day finances of the Great Neck Teachers Association and I ensure that the internal controls with regard to fiduciary responsibilities are being met. With the financials, Treasurer's Reports, and in collaboration with the Executive Board, I prepare the yearly budget. As Treasurer, I review and present the year-end financials to the Delegate Assembly. Since assuming the role of Treasurer in July 2018, I have streamlined the Treasurer's Report for more concise reporting to members, documented and studied trends in membership income to more accurately structure price dues for future years, and improved financial safety and accountability.

I am a Great Neck resident, and I have been a proud GNTA member for the past 18 years, and I feel a sense of urgency to become involved in my school community. My strong belief in public education has provided me with the drive to become personally involved in the union. I am once again seeking your support so that I may continue as Treasurer for the Great Neck Teachers Association. During my 18 year career in Great Neck, and knowing how difficult it can be to navigate a school as a new teacher, I was one of the coordinators of the New Members Committee as well as a Member Engagement



Representative to help focus on outreach and opportunities for GNTA members. As an educator, I have served on multiple hiring committees for each Middle School, have had the distinct opportunity to serve as a BRC and BCG co-chair and representative, TAC co-chair, and collaborator on the Superintendent's Conference Day Committee. As a Great Neck resident, I was the representative for the Board of Education's Citizens' Advisory Committee. I was actively involved in informing Great Neck residents and colleagues alike on the facts surrounding the 2018 bond referendum of the issues on critical projects in a high-stakes election. I am also co-advisor of the Community Action Committee, a club that focuses on mobilizing middle school students to take an active role in helping their community. And, prior to each school budget vote, I actively phone bank to inform community residents of how school budget proposals affect students.

- 6 | My life outside South Middle is an extension of my extensive roles in the school community. I am involved in local community outreach and volunteer work like Midnight Run and sponsoring food drives to help our local pantry, St. Aloysius, meet the needs of the community.

Being an officer in the Great Neck Teachers Association is an honor and a privilege and, if elected again, will continue to dutifully perform the role of Treasurer for the GNTA. I look forward to continuing to represent you and I humbly ask for your support.

## CINDY PAVLIC

▪ *High School Director*

It has been a privilege and an education serving as a member of the Executive Board of the GNTA as the High School Director these past two years. As I've been down in the trenches, I've become fluid with the vast obligations and skills required of an effective EB member. One of the best parts of the position, however, has been that I've gotten to listen to and work alongside many of my peers

in the GNTA. We can learn so much from each other as we advocate for the collective good. I respectfully ask for your vote to allow me to continue to represent you on the Executive Board, as well as, at the local and state levels. Serving on the Executive Board was not my first foray into union leadership. I've always valued being involved and informed on the issues that impact our membership and public education, and have been an active member of GNTA since I began my tenure at the Village School twelve years ago. My union leadership formally began when I served as BRC Chair for seven years, and as Chair of the Social Outreach Committee (SOC) for nine years. Additionally, I've had the honor of representing GNTA at various rallies and conferences, including several NYSUT Leadership conferences and the annual NYSTRS convention. I just completed my first stint on the CIC, and remain an active part of the Member Engagement Committee (MEG). Finally, I represent the GNTA Executive Board and the general membership at each UPTC meeting.

In my role as High School Director, I have been involved in navigating and handling several issues that have arisen at the High Schools, including the FOIL of North High School in the Spring semester of 2022, which required my presence in the building for faculty meetings to listen to concerns, inform the staff of developments, maintain communication among Building Administration and BRC Chairs, and represent our views to Central Administration. Over the past twelve years, I have built a solid and successful working relationship with my fellow teachers, department chairs, and administration, and have earned the reputation amongst all as someone who does her homework and knows her stuff. Additionally, in part because of my demeanor and perhaps because I teach at an alternative high school, I bring a unique and unbiased perspective to high school issues, and recognize and appreciate the diverse cultures at the different buildings.

Leadership requires integrity, accessibility, self-reflection and a desire to do what's right, even

when it is hard. A leader needs to be thoughtful, measured, and calm under pressure in order to provide the best support to our members – however she must also know to survey a situation and determine when it is the right time to play hardball. I have demonstrated the ability to listen to the concerns of our members with a clear mind, devoid of the frustration, and with an unobstructed, big picture view. This approach has allowed me to provide the most poignant advice and pertinent resources for our membership.

Serving as a member of the Executive Board is hard work and anything but glamorous. It is a commitment of time that requires individuals to prioritize their schedules and make personal sacrifices, often to the tune of two to three evenings a week. That being said, I fully believe the work we do, as individuals and a collective, is worth the investment. I've only begun to make my contributions, and it is my sincere hope that you will entrust me to continue to do the critical work of High School Director.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

## ERIC RAGOT

▪ *High School Director*

Hey, I'm Eric Ragot and I am running to be your next High School Director of GNTA. I'm in my 16th year at North High as a social studies teacher. I am married and the father of a junior at Beacon High School in NYC. I was born in Queens, grew up in Suffolk, live in Brooklyn, and have worked in Nassau for the last 18 years. I've covered all of Long Island!

Union identification runs deep in me. I joined my first union at 18 working at a supermarket and was there for 5 years. Before I was even in that union, I was fired for trying to unionize the ushers at a United Artists theater. The projectionists' union was trying to organize the ushers the projectionists' contract negotiations. That case went to the National Labor Relations Board when I was 18 as well. Turns out I eventually won but saw nothing from it.

(Eric Ragot, continued)

I was an attorney before becoming a teacher. I worked on labor and employment matters in both law school and in practice. I clerked for a federal judge and then practiced for years before becoming a teacher and continuing to study history.

My first teaching job was in NYC. I was at a new small school and became the chapter leader (equivalent of BRC Chair). Once again, I was right back to being involved in the union and helping to represent the teachers at my school.

Now, as my son grew and needed less of my time, I have become far more active in school and union matters. In February 2022, I helped the teachers at North High when faced with a chilling Freedom of Information Law request that had the potential for great harm to the teachers. In order to protect us as a faculty both at the moment and in the future, I helped to organize us as a union in crafting a letter to articulate our concerns and also guide the district administration in how to legally protect us. I also personally stood up to central administration to not just question them, but to use personal connections to try and guide them in ways to help us and help themselves.

Further, I joined the Contract Improvement Committee in 2022 and once again became more involved with the union and helped us work together better in pursuit of our common goals.

Now, I hope to not only continue the work that I've started, but to do more. I aim to increase my involvement in bringing the union together. We need to continue to increase communication among the members of the union, not just at the building level, but across the entire membership. The high schools need to be able to talk to each other, as do all of the schools. The Union also needs to be willing to stand up to central administration and guide them, or challenge them as necessary. Just as I helped us do with the FOIL request and will continue to do.

## **PATTI CRISAFULLI**

■ *Middle School Director*

It has been my privilege to serve GNTA members as Middle School Director. Though I have been at North Middle School for decades, I have been a phone call or email away from South Middle and respond to concerns at both schools quickly and thoughtfully. As a Great Neck Public Schools educator, union member and parent, I bring the knowledge of multiple stakeholders to any situation and strive to attain the best for GNTA. Representing you at NY State Retirement System and NYSUT conventions has given me the chance to strengthen ties with GNTA leaders from other buildings, and our affiliates. I look forward to continued service and ask for your support in the upcoming GNTA elections.

## **JESSICA KLEINHOUT**

■ *Elementary Director, PreK-2*

As a member of GNTA since 2003, I recognize the importance of being involved in and informed about our contract and its impact on the lives of our members. Since 2010 I have been actively involved in GNTA, serving as a Building Representative and delegate for our union as well as a Co-Chair of the BRC, which was both educational and empowering. I served as a BRC Co-Chair during challenging times, and I gave many presentations to my colleagues. It has been my honor to be elected twice to attend the NYSUT Leadership Institute to represent GNTA. It is my goal to enhance the motivation and engagement of GNTA members. Although each of us has unique goals, there are many issues that both affect and unite all of us. It is important to keep all GNTA members informed about the many issues we are facing. My goal is to find ways to unite, organize, mobilize, and support each of our members, and our membership as a whole.

In my capacity as an Executive Board Member of GNTA for the past two years I have learned so much while representing the interests of our PreK-2 members to the Executive Board as well as acting as a liaison from the Executive Board to the PreK-2

grade levels. It has been a privilege acting as a coordinator of the PreK-2 BRCs and Co-Chairing the monthly meeting of Elementary BRC/BCG Chairs. Serving as a member of the CIC and assisting on the GNTA Negotiating Team has provided me with the opportunity to work alongside so many talented colleagues. One of the most rewarding experiences was spending time with colleagues while going door-to-door to support our endorsed candidate in the 2022 Board of Ed. election. Part of my responsibilities have also included serving as a GNTA representative to the UPTC as well as serving on district wide committees such as The Shared Decision Making Steering Committee. I have dedicated my time to learning more about unions and how best to support our members by attending the NYSUT Conference in Tarrytown as well as attending several NYSUT workshops, such as Trends in Negotiations.

The last two years have been the most inspiring and rewarding period of my professional life. I look forward to continuing to serve you as Elementary Director PreK-2. I will continue to advocate for you and serve you to the best of my ability in this role. Thank you in advance for your support!

## **LUCI LEGOTTI**

■ *Elementary Director, 3-5*

■ *NYSUT Delegate*

I appreciate the support you have given me over the past 10 years in the position of GNTA Elementary Director, 3-5 and as a Delegate to the NYSUT RA. During this time I have had the privilege to work with three amazing co-directors, Donna Peirez, Sandy Kaufman, and currently Jessica Kleinhout. I sat at the table for two contract negotiations, one contract extension, and I am currently part of the team negotiating our next contract. I supported the membership in moving through the challenges of the COVID pandemic to bring the GNPS closer to where we need to be. Additionally, as we are in the midst of contract negotiations, and a search for a new Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, the institutional knowledge of the contract and the District I bring to

this position will be invaluable in working with and educating our new central administrators going forward.

The formal work I do as Elementary Director connects the membership in the district in many different ways; I chair a monthly meeting for BRC and BCG Chairs to disseminate information, address building concerns, and provide an opportunity for conversations to take place. I meet with Assistant Superintendent Kelly Newman each month to advocate for elementary concerns and influence central administrative decisions. I attend Kelly Newman's District Elementary BCG Chairs' Meetings along with BCG Chairs and building principals to set goals related to curriculum initiatives. Additionally, as a member of the district APPR Committee, I provide the elementary perspective. And informally, I am responsive to the issues and concerns of the membership on a daily basis as unexpected things arise.

As Elementary Director my participation in district committees is extensive, but my reach goes much further than that into the community, the county, and the state. I serve as a delegate to the NYSTRS and work with delegates from around the state to maintain the security of our pension into the future and I am currently advocating to improve Tier VI. I participate in the GN UPTC as a teacher representative and serve on the Legislative Committee. My work on the Legislative Committee has included a seat at the table at three meetings with elected officials including Assemblywoman Gina Sillitti, Legislative Director Jennifer Slagen, Legislator Mazi Pilip, and Councilwoman Veronica Lurvey. We will also be meeting with Senator Jack Martins in the coming month. As these elected officials are influential in decision making related to public education, it is important that the GN community and our legislators know that Great Neck teachers are informed and active in political discussions and decision-making in the district and throughout the county and state. I am proud to be a teacher in the Great Neck Public School System and a member of the Great Neck Teachers Association and hope you will once again support my

candidacy in the election on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **JOAN GREENBERG**

■ ***NYSUT & AFT Delegate***

With the current political assault on teachers and public education, I feel it is imperative to be an active participant in this battle. As a social worker with the GNPS for 24 years and advocate for the district's most disenfranchised students and families, I am passionate about protecting the rights of educators and maintaining a quality education for all students. As a GNTA sister, my activism began with participation in the Internal Organizing Committee and Contract Improvement Committee. I am currently the Member Engagement Group (MEG) Chair and the SHS BRC Co-chair. Serving as a NYSUT delegate for 10 years and as an AFT delegate since 2018 has been one of the most educational and empowering experiences, which has further fueled my profound belief and commitment to equity, social justice, and unionism. I am grateful to be a part of the GNTA community and privileged to work with such creative, dedicated and professional colleagues.

I would love the opportunity and honor to continue to represent the members of the Great Neck Teachers Association as a delegate at the NYUST and AFT conventions. I care deeply and am willing to do whatever it takes!!

In Solidarity.

## **BILL TOTO**

■ ***NYSUT & AFT Retiree Delegate***

I appreciate the past support you have given me as the retiree delegate to the NYSUT and AFT conventions. It is my hope that you will elect me, again, and Jeff Bernstein as the alternate delegate.

Presently, I am serving on the Retired Educator's Chapter Executive Board as chair of Legislation. Also, my involvement in the GNTA DA, Election District 19, Retiree Council 19 and the Long Island Retiree Delegates Council has enabled me to keep well informed of the current important issues related to inservice teachers and retirees.

Fixing the pension system's regressive Tier VI, even better, eliminating Tier VI, is a priority. David Keefe, President of the NYSTRS Board of Trustees also agrees.

Establishing a safe environment for students and staff in the public schools is essential for productive teaching and learning to occur. There needs to be greater New York State and local governmental action for environmental reforms as climate change progresses. Threats are still looming in Congress to diminish or to eliminate Social Security and original Medicare. NYSUT and AFT must be more active to protect our health insurance and earned retirement benefits. Our New York State pension system has a COLA built into it. For retirees, the COLA has not kept up with inflation and rising daily expenses. It is time to increase it to reflect living in the 21st century. The present COLA has not changed since its inception in 2000. The number of retirees in NYSUT has grown to more than 230,000. Yet, the delegate representation on the NYSUT Board of Directors and to the RA does not show that growth. Retirees are requesting this problem to be addressed.

Be assured that I am committed to inservice as well as retiree agendas. As always, I will advocate, in a collaborative setting, pursuing quality of life goals for inservice educators and retirees.

## **ROBERT JIMÉNEZ**

■ ***NYSUT Paraprofessional Delegate***

Hi, I am Robert Jimenez, President of the Great Neck Paraprofessional Association, and also serve as one of our current NYSUT Delegate Reps. I previously worked in Business Administration for about ten years prior to switching careers in 2012 to work in Special Education. I obtained my BA in Sociology with a focus in Social Work from CUNY Queens College. I believe that my unique experiences and education and passion for helping others has enabled me to be a strong leader, advocate and representative, and I hope I can count on your continued support.