

BEDFORD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
POLITICAL ACTION REPORT – 3/20/13
Submitted by: Mimi Warren

Committee of 100: Tony Monchinski and Mimi Warren, along with 700 NYSUT members from around New York State attended Committee of 100 on March 5th. Discussions with legislators focused on these key items:

- Pension smoothing
- Additional school funding, K – 12
- Increase funding for SUNY, CUNY and Community Colleges
- Repeal the Tax Cap/change the super-majority vote
- Additional funding for Teacher Centers

The Assembly has developed a budget which would increase funding for education by \$344 million over the Governor's proposed budget. According to a statement released by Speaker Silver, the Assembly restores \$240 million in school aid to New York City and other districts, which did not meet the January 17, 2013 deadline for Annual Professional Performance Review Plans.

Additional funding is included for SUNY and CUNY community colleges. The plan includes an additional \$150 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student to raise the total community college base aid to \$2,422 per FTE. The proposal also includes the restoration of more than \$1.5 million for SUNY and CUNY childcare centers, which provide vital assistance to parents who attend college.

The Senate's proposed budget bill includes a school aid increase of \$415 million above the Governor's budget. The senate bill also raises community college base aid by \$150 per student, and proposes exempting community colleges from the job-killing MTA payroll tax, restores programs for women and funding to the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities and authorizes the Comptroller and NYS Teacher's Retirement System Board to make a long-term stable pension contribution option available to local governments, but modifies the Governor's pension reform proposal to ensure localities can meet their financial obligations along with giving them additional flexibility. Both the Senate and the Assembly remain committed to restoring and growing jobs in NYS, while working with the Governor to settle the earliest budget in the 30 years. For updates and additional information, visit: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/> and <http://www.nysenate.gov/>.

NYSUT: Please continue to visit the NYSUT Member Action Center and **send FAXES**. There are many important issues currently posted and in need of your support, including, restoring funding for Teacher Centers, reducing the focus on high stakes testing and relief from the Tax Cap. **Your Faxes do make a difference**.

Go to the Member Action Center at www.NYSUT.org . Send the faxes, sign the petitions and visit the NYSUT Facebook page. Connect with members. Follow legislation. Stay informed. Also, check out the NYSUT Blog: <http://blogs.nysut.org/> and see what your union brothers and sisters are saying.

BREAKING NEWS: as of last night, the Governor and the Legislator have reached an agreement on the budget – not finalized yet – but close to it!

