



# Newburgh Teachers' Association

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A Union of Professionals

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Local #2867



February 23, 2009

Runston T. Lewis, President  
NECSD Board of Education  
124 Grand Street  
Newburgh, NY 12550

Dear Mr. Lewis,

For the past five years, the NTA and the Board have enjoyed an unparalleled positive and collaborative relationship. Under your leadership and that of the Superintendent, the District's educational mission is slowly being realized. Almost every area shows growth and much of this progress is due to the efforts of our professional staff, as well as, our entire educational community.

While this is happening, we are aware that the Newburgh Enlarged City School District Board of Education is performing its due diligence by formulating a plan which addresses a *worst* case scenario budget shortfall. Setting priorities and goals is hard for all of us. Facing this challenge head-on is commendable.

However, as I have communicated to our membership, and as you know, the scope of next year's program relies on a variety of factors which are fluid and may change quickly and dramatically. They include benefits to our District from such things as our collectively negotiated retirement incentive; the allotment of Newburgh's share of federal stimulus package money; the NYS budget negotiations process, which we all hope will result in not only the restoration of the governor's cuts but ends up more like the Regents State Aid proposal which would increase aid by \$880 million or 4.1% over the current year; the approval of a pro-education school district budget; and other internal decisions which continually refine our mission and foster collaboration.

Therefore, at this time, with NYS Governor Patterson and others now admitting April 1, 2009 is their realistic goal to finalize the state budget, we call upon the Board to postpone until the April 21, 2009 meeting date, the adoption of a final school district budget in order to allow for the most accurate and up-to-date planning data.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Phil Cordella  
NTA President

cc: Board of Education  
Dr. Annette M. Saturnelli  
NTA membership