THE NEWBURGH TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (NTA) IS YOUR LOCAL TEACHERS UNION. IT IS THE EXCLUSIVE NEGOTIATING AGENT FOR NTA TEACHERS, TEACHING ASSISTANTS, AND SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS. THE NTA BELONGS TO THE NEW YORK UNITED TEACHERS (NYSUT) AT THE STATE LEVEL AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (AFT) AND THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA) ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL. UNION DUES PAID BY MEMBERS GO TO THE NTA, NYSUT, AFT, AND THE NEA.

---

The NTA collectively bargains wages, health care benefits (health insurance, dental, optical, and prescription reimbursement), and working conditions (physical and professional). The NTA upholds the terms and conditions of the contract — representing NTA members in grievances when items of the contract are violated and when disciplinary issues should arise. Being an NTA member gives you a voice — a say in your profession regarding employment conditions and solving problems. As an NTA member, you do not have to suffer in silence. You have a union that will represent you.

NYSUT

While the local union is the bargaining agent for its members, NYSUT provides whatever assistance the union may require to carry out its duties. In many instances, a NYSUT labor relations specialist (LRS) represents the local union at the bargaining table and in the administration of the collective bargaining agreement. The LRS assists locals and members facing job-related problems. NYSUT fights to support good educational laws and regulations (state and national) and stop bad labor and education laws and regulations, ongoing professional development throughout a member's career, and pension and retirement advocacy.

AFT&NEA

These two national unions work together to support your local and state unions on both a state and national level, supporting good educational laws and regulations.

Union members earn better wages and benefits than workers who are not union members. On average, union workers' wages are 27 percent higher than their non-union counterparts. Unionized workers are 60 percent more likely to have employer-provided pensions. More than 85 percent of union workers have jobs that provide health insurance benefits, but only 54 percent of non-union workers do. Unions help employers create a more stable, productive workforce, where workers have a say in improving their jobs.

---

Coming in the next issue of The Pendulum is an article that breaks down the Friedrichs vs. California case. What could cases like this do to public education?
"WEST STREET STORY"

BY DARRELL KUHN

ewburgh Students who may not want a traditional high school setting will get a chance to receive a non-traditional education.

Newburgh Free Academy West is slated to open for the 2016-17 school year. The school is located at 39 West Street in the City of Newburgh, in the former West Street Elementary School building.

The Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement regarding NFA West between the superintendent of schools and the board of education and the Newburgh Teachers Association states that district teachers who transfer to the new school, effective September 1, 2016 shall be permitted to return to the school to which they were assigned on June 30, 2016, in their tenure area, should the NFA West program be discontinued on or before June 30, 2019. Should the NFA West program be discontinued after June 30, 2019, the agreement states, teachers assigned to the school at that time (June 30, 2019) shall be considered displaced. These teachers, according to the agreement, will be permitted to select from vacant positions in their tenure area, in tenure seniority order (most senior to junior), prior to other displaced teachers and prior to the assignment of newly hired teachers. This agreement does not apply to those teachers who begin their employment for the district at NFA West.

NTA President Stacy Moran said that there is no building seniority, only district seniority. Moran stressed that district teachers will not get forced to work there.

"If you go, it's voluntary," Moran said, "if a teacher goes there and after one year he or she does not like it, that teacher must ask (human resources) for a voluntary transfer."

Ebony Clark, an assistant principal at GAMS Tech Magnet School and the co-chairperson of the committee that designed NFA West, said through a written informational statement that by design, (NFA-West) will be small.

"There will be spaces for 30 students in each grade level," Clark said through the statement. "Beginning in the spring of 2016, the school will accept 30 incoming freshmen and 30 spaces will be available for the sophomore class."

Clark also explained that NFA West campus is a school of choice, meaning that students who attend the school decided it was the correct setting for them instead of the NFA Main or NFA North campuses. At NFA West, students can graduate with a high school diploma, a post-high school plan, and the skills needed for success through college and in real-world careers.

Moran wants NTA members to be aware of the Supplemental Memorandum of agreement. If NTA members have any questions about NFA West, call Moran at (845) 562-8120.

VOTERS APPROVE 2016-17 NECSD BUDGET

BY DARRELL KUHN

oters approved the 2016-17 Newburgh Enlarged School District budget on May 17 with a tally of 1,409-569. The budget approval gives the Newburgh Teachers Association a net gain of 30 full-time positions.

The positions being created are English as a New Language (ENL) teachers, social workers, school counselors, art teachers, psychologists, special education teachers, and foreign language teachers.

The total budget amount for 2016-17 is $264,314,605, a dollar increase of $7,398,336 and a percentage increase of 2.88 from the current 2015-16 plan. For Newburgh, the 2016-17 budget is expected to receive a total of $143,471,969 in State Aid, and the tax levy (the amount of money to be raised by taxes) is lower than it has been in years, according to a statement by NTA President Stacy Moran.

The NTA officially endorsed the spending plan in the weeks prior to the May 17, 2016 public vote.

"I'm very happy to see that the district is moving forward to add educators, decrease class sizes, and bring back programs that are beneficial to the district," said Moran.

NECSD residents also voted in the Board of Education election. All four of the NTA-backed candidates were elected to the NECSD BOE. The board members' new terms will officially begin on July 1, 2016.

Incumbent Susan Prokosch was the top vote-getter with 1,536 votes, and Domenic Tebano came in second with an even 1,200. Incumbent Andrew Johnston finished third with 1,112 votes, and incumbent Darren Stridiron earned 1,054.

The endorsed four defeated candidates Sylvia M. Santiago, Anthony Hood, and Lissandra Deliz. Santiago received 731 votes and Hook garnered 484. Deliz finished with 329.

The other propositions that district residents voted on also passed. Voters passed the Newburgh Free Library's budget by a tally of 1,458-601 and the Capital Reserve Fund by a score of 1,387-583. Voters were in favor of the Transportation Limit proposition by a tally of 1,392-582.
DANA MCDONOUGH-TAKING HER SHOW ON THE ROAD

BY MATT BARBERO

Imagine participating in a day at the museum, the Smithsonian, where teachers from around the country have an opportunity to work together at the Lemelson Center for the Study of Innovation & Invention. Visualize yourself at a meeting with Secretary of Education John King, a meeting where he acknowledges and commends you for the impact that members of your profession have had on his life. Later that week, you are meeting with Vice President Joe Biden and President Barack Obama, where you are once again commended for your work. This week-long celebration of your profession in Washington, D.C. culminates in the recognition of the National Teacher of the Year, Jahana Hayes, being another part of the dream.

A member of any profession can't help but fantasize about being recognized for outstanding achievement on a national level. Right here among us, Dana McDonough has experienced this honor and more. Coming off of an awards ceremony at the NYSUTRA in Rochester, N.Y. only a month later Dana was off for a week in Washington, D.C.

As the year-long recognition of this award for McDonough continues throughout the summer months, Dana will decide when she will begin her scholarship for an advanced degree program (Masters or PhD) with Walden University. When asked, Dana told me that she hadn't decided, but that she had narrowed down to either Curriculum Development or Educational Leadership. Although Educational Leadership may sound like an administrative degree, it isn't. Don't worry, we won't be losing Dana from our ranks.

Dana will always remember her meeting with teachers from throughout the country on the Washington, D.C. leg of her adventure as an enlightening experience. She has once again thanked family, faculty, staff, as well as the Newburgh Enlarged City School District for their continued support. We look forward to seeing Dana with us in the NECSD for years to come.

THE NYSTURA-YOU’VE GOT MY BACK

BY MATT BARBERO

Meeting on April 8-9, 2016 in Rochester, N.Y., the NYSTURA’s annual convention convened to discuss and vote on union policy. With Stacy Moran attending for the first time as the Newburgh Teachers Association president, Beverly Brown-Fazio representing the Newburgh Enlarged City School District as our new Newburgh Teachers Center Coordinator, and Newburgh’s own Dana McDonough, New York State’s Teacher of the Year, all present, this was a pivotal year for our members.

Delivering her message to the NECSD delegates as well as those from around the state, Dana stressed not only the presence of teachers beyond the four walls of the classroom, but also the importance of working together in order to maintain the best interests of students. Nick Karnavezos, a six-time assembly attendee and Dana’s colleague at Fostertown Elementary School said, “Dana is a great speaker continued back page
BEVERLY BROWN-FAZIO TO RUN TEACHERS CENTER

BY MATT BARBERO

What happened to the Newburgh Teachers Center (NTC)? Well, it's been resurrected. With Newburgh Teachers Association President Stacy Moran’s commitment to improving the lives, careers, and professional standing of the Newburgh Enlarged City School District staff, the NTC has officially been up and running since February.

Many of you already know the new coordinator: Beverly Brown-Fazio, Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), has been chosen as the NTC Coordinator. An NECSD teacher since 1994, Beverly is not afraid of a challenge and is certainly not afraid of change. While working for Key Bank from 1984-1994, where she reached the position of Merchant Officer, Brown attended Mount Saint Mary’s College part-time, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics.

Since Brown began her career in Newburgh in 1994, she has worked at the Newburgh Magnet Middle School at Washington Street, Heritage Middle School, North Junior High School, and most recently at Newburgh Free Academy’s Main Campus. Teaching Math A5 (Academic Intervention Services), as well as Math Enrichment, Brown has been honored by the New York State Department of Education as a New York State Master Teacher in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

One of her first objectives, one that will help all teachers in the district, will be to update the technology available to us through the NTC. At this time, Scantron machines, laminators, and poster machines are available for use by our staff. Through grants, Brown hopes to have camera and video equipment available for use in the classroom and to assist in the state certification process.

With the ultimate goal being the empowerment of our teaching staff, Brown will focus on such issues as the rights and responsibilities of teachers, APPR training, enforcing the district’s Code of Conduct, as well as educational regulations and laws. Using the North Rockland, Washingtonville, and Mid-Hudson teacher centers as models for developing in-house college programs, Brown hopes to rekindle connections with the New York State Teacher Center Consortium. By developing a collaborative relationship with the district’s Curriculum and Instruction department, she also hopes to address the educational needs of teachers in the NECSD. A NYSUT-ELT district institute with online training, as well as in-house and in-service courses for our staff members will be part of the NTC's future.

We are all looking forward to a new rejuvenated teacher center. If you need to contact Beverly or need to stop in, the contact information

NYSUTRA continued

who had everyone's undivided attention during her speech.

Much of the discussion during the assembly focused on issues such as the recent Supreme Court decision in Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association, as well as the possibility of a constitutional convention here in New York State. The repercussions of such a constitutional convention were outlined during our interview. Nick’s concern regarding such a constitutional convention primarily focused on how our pension and profession could be adversely affected.

The high profile strike by 40,000 CWA and IBEW Verizon workers was also an issue that was addressed. With Verizon posting record profits for the past ten years, there is little need to cut members’ benefits. Increasing profit margins gained through the deprivation of a company’s rank and file employees was a concern for all of those attending NYSUTRA. Having become such an issue, NYSUT chose to endorse the May 5th National Verizon Strike Day Pickets in New York State.

A much broader issue addressed at the assembly is the upcoming U.S. presidential election. With the American Federation of Teachers presidential endorsement under her belt, Hillary Clinton attended the event as a guest speaker, hoping to solidify the New York State nomination. Addressing some 2,500 union delegates, Hillary touted issues such as less standardized testing, higher teacher salaries, and more funding for public schools.