

Syosset Central School District

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New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

November 25, 2024

Dear Chancellor Young and Commissioner Rosa:

The Syosset Board of Education is following up on our November 7 letter expressing concerns with the Regents Regionalization proposal. We noted that the ambiguity of the language created concerns about the potential for erosion of local control or redistribution of resources – both of which we would vigorously oppose. Before the comment period expires today, we wish to amplify our comments.

While the Department has attempted to assuage the concerns we raised with written statements assuring that school districts would not be required to implement any aspect of a plan we have not “agreed or consented to”, our letter questioned the need for the Department to be involved in an approval process or for the District Superintendent to have an expanded role, if the elements of any plan were simply voluntary. However, the Emergency Rule, with its ambiguous and concerning language, remains in force and will continue to cause alarm in our community until the Regents withdraw or dramatically revise it.

Accordingly, the Regents must do so at their next possible opportunity, the December 9 & 10 meeting, or we will be forced to conclude those assurances were hollow – leaving the Syosset school district with no choice but to pursue whatever legal means are at our disposal to preserve our independence, local control, educational program, and local resources.

We truly hope that your actions in December will make such efforts unnecessary.

Sincerely,

For the Board of Education,
Carol Cheng, President

Board of Education
Brian J. Grieco, Vice President
Lynn Abramson
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