



c/o Eastern Suffolk BOCES, 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, New York 11772
Phone: 631-687-3001/Fax: 631-240-8965/Email: scssa@esboces.org

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the New York State Board of Regents

FROM: Dr. Julie Davis Lutz, Legislative Chair
SCSSA Legislative Committee

DATE: August 16, 2019

RE: Appointment of New Commissioner of Education

As you undertake the appointment of a new Commissioner of Education, we, the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association, believe that this is a critically important decision for public education in our state. Most importantly, we believe that the next commissioner should have a clear and unequivocal commitment to a sound and basic public education for all children.

Although there are many characteristics that make an individual a good leader, we believe there are several that are critical in our next commissioner. We offer these leadership qualities and skills for your consideration as essential for the new commissioner:

- Great integrity and understanding of the importance of collaboration with all stakeholders.
- Experience as a successful superintendent of a public school system with a background that includes highly effective building level leadership and classroom teaching.
- Honesty, empathy, and exceptional communication skills, with the willingness to embrace an ongoing dialogue among school leaders, board members, parents, and community members, not just in times of crisis.
- A commitment that ensures superintendents and school board members are the primary resource for determining the value of new reforms and initiatives before they are advanced.

Our public education system is one of the most significant public services a democratic society provides. In selecting this individual, please keep that significance in the forefront – ensuring that the education of every child in New York is at the center of your decision making. As Horace Mann reminds us, “Education then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, the balance-wheel of the social machinery.”

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We stand ready and willing to assist you throughout your decision making, and have confidence that you will do your very best to choose a leader who will support the public education of children in our great state. We would be happy to be represented on any stakeholder committee you may utilize for this process.

JDL/de
cc: SCSSA Members