



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of public-school leaders throughout New York City and State, the NYC Council of School Supervisors and Administrators and the NYS Federation of School Administrators join in celebrating the life and work of Crystal Boling-Barton. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Robert Barton Sr., her children, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren as they honor and remember a truly incredible woman and educator.

Office of the President

President
Mark F. Cannizzaro

Principal Boling-Barton enriched the lives of those she served as if they too were her own family. Her guiding priority was to constantly empower her students to become their best selves, and she welcomed any partnership and collaboration that enabled her to do so. This lifelong dedication and profound ability to connect with others also shaped her commitments outside of her school building, as she supported youth in community action organizations, after school programs, and summer institutes. The meaningful impact of her work will be felt for years to come.

Given her empathy and desire to serve others, it is not surprising to learn that Principal Boling-Barton once aimed to be a nurse and earned her license soon after she graduated high school. Thankfully for all those whose lives she has touched, she pivoted to education while at Niagara University, earning degrees in not only educational administration, but counseling education as well. She employed the many lessons learned in her studies with passion and diligence throughout her entire career, whether as a teacher, a counselor, an AP, and most notably as the principal of McKinley High School for over thirty years. Principal Boling-Barton was truly a trailblazer as the first female to lead a career and technical high school in Buffalo. Recognizing the need for multi-cultural learning experiences, she also led the way in exposing her students to powerful speakers and school events, including citywide African American History Quiz Bowls and Pageants and conversations with the family members of Booker T. Washington and Frederick Douglass.

Finally, she embarked on a secondary career as a staunch unionist, recognizing the collective power of educators almost as soon as she became an AP. She was a highly respected union leader for nearly her entire career, particularly as the President of the Buffalo Council of Supervisors and Administrators. She was a trailblazer in that regard as well, as the first female and first African American to hold the office. She also expertly represented her members as a Vice President of the NYS Federation of School Administrators and the American Federation of School Administrators, supporting and advocating for her colleagues with heart, integrity, and grace.

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Though we could not be there today to honor her in person, her fighting spirit lives on in all of us. We are blessed to have had the incredible fortune to have called Principal Crystal Boling-Barton a friend and partner in this critical work. We will miss her dearly.

In Unity,

Mark Cannizzaro
CSA and NYSFSA President