

NYSFSA ARTICLE FOR MARCH CSA NEWS.

“ March went out like a lion”. This popular lyric from the song “June is busting out all over “ from the Broadway play, Carousel. could be a premonition. The state budget is scheduled to be finalized by April 1st. and since that is Easter Sunday, the pressure for an earlier agreement is being felt already. the Governor has set the gauntlet down with a weak budget increase for Education. The Executive ( Governor’s ) budget proposes to increase schools aid by only \$769 million. That is less than half the \$1.6 billion increase that the State board of Regents recommended and far short of the \$2.0 billion state aid increase that the educational conference Board recommended. NYSFSA still believes the state should commit to fully funding the Foundation Aid formula. New York is now \$4.2 billion behind the full phase in of Foundation Aid. Hopefully our elected officials in the State Assembly and State Senate will rally for support of public schools in their districts. Their determination could result in better educational funding for the 2018/2019 school year.

February was an interesting month at the board of rents meeting. The good news was that the graduation rates were higher in New York State. they increased by .4 % to 82.1%. Our three locals all experienced higher graduation rates ( NYC increased 1.1% to 71.1%, Buffalo increased 1.0% to 62.7%, and Yonkers increases 4.5% to 82.8 %) . All of this progress puts our state on track to exceed our newly USDOE approved ESSA plan’s graduation goal for next year . Four Big % school districts ( NYSFSA represents three of the big five cities ) had graduation growth that exceeded the statewide growth.

the second important item at the Regents meeting was a presentation by Commissioner Elia on APPR. The presentation began with a history of the APPR and the present Moratorium on the use of state grades 3 to 8 assessment scores. The Commissioner stated that a thoughtful process will begin to hear from various stakeholder groups and individuals on the teacher and principal evaluation systems. The first step was a statewide electronic survey sent to all principals and teachers in February. In April, workgroups will be organized to review survey results and discuss additional ideas for the evaluation process. During the Summer 2018, focus groups will be conducted to continue the discussion. Workeroups will meet again to discuss the focus groups’ feedback and possibly conduct regional meetings. In Spring 2019, the workers will finalize

recommendations to be presented to the Board of Regents. NYSFSA will have representatives on these workers and they will be active voices in this long, thoughtful and extremely important process to determine the future of teacher and principal evaluation in New York State.

I know how hard our supervisors will work and need to accomplish in the next few months but before you know it, “June is bustin’ out all over”.