

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

12:52 P.M.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come to order.

In the absence of clergy, let us pause for a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Visitors are invited to join the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Acting Speaker Aubry led visitors and members in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of Monday, March 4th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I move to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Monday, March 4th and ask that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick moment to share with our colleagues and guests in the Chambers and those listening over the web, our quote for the day, Mr. Speaker, is from Oprah Winfrey. It says, "If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough." With that, again, Mr. Speaker, that is from Oprah Winfrey. And the members do have on their desk a main Calendar. After any introductions and/or housekeeping, we will continue our consent on new bills, beginning with Calendar No. 72 on page 10. There will be a need for the following Committees: Ways and Means and Rules, I believe Higher Ed is already in motion, and Education has been completed. These meetings will produce an A-Calendar. From that Calendar, we will take up a resolution for the purpose of electing four Regents. Our Majority members should be aware that there will be a need for a Conference at the conclusion of Session and, of course, we will check with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to see if the same remains for them.

With that, Mr. Speaker, that's the general outline of

where we're going to go today. If there are any introductions, which I believe there are quite a few, and/or housekeeping, now would be the appropriate time.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Richardson for the purposes of a [sic] introduction.

MS. RICHARDSON: Good morning, Mr. Speaker. It brings me an immense amount of pleasure to welcome Ms. Monique Chandler-Waterman here to the New York State Legislature, especially in our Chamber, the People's House. Ms. Monique Chandler-Waterman is my 2019 Honoree for the Stronger Non-profits Awards. She is the Executive Director of East Flatbush Village, hailing from Brooklyn, New York, which is a youth and family service organization helping us to reach out to those who need it the most, and curing violence all at the same time while creating environments that are conducive for learning, love and peace. So, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please help me in welcoming Ms. Monique Chandler-Waterman here to the New York State Assembly.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Richardson, Ms. Waterman, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Know that you are always welcome here and we congratulate you on the great work you're doing in the Borough of Brooklyn. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Ms. Rozic for an introduction.

MS. ROZIC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Madam Majority Leader. I have the pleasure today of introducing Patrick McLaughlin who serves as Principal of St. Francis Preparatory School in Fresh Meadows, Queens. St. Francis Preparatory, or the "Prep" as it is affectionately known to many of us, is located in my district and is the largest private Catholic school in the United States. For over 150 years, Prep has been providing young men and women with education rooted in the Franciscan tradition of peace, love and respect for the individual, community and environment. Principal McLaughlin is a graduate of Prep back when it was located in Brooklyn, and has since dedicated his career to Prep's advancement serving as, get ready for this, Health and Phys Ed teacher and Department Chair, Baseball and Basketball Coach, Assistant Principal for Faculty and Instruction, and now Principal. We actually came in the same year together, he as Principal, and me as member of this great Body.

Under his leadership, Prep continues to earn numerous distinctions, recognizing academic excellence such as having been the first-ever school to earn accreditations specifically for music education by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools back in 2011. His commitment to students' success and enrichment is extremely valued by Prep's families, their alumni, certainly our community as a whole, because it serves as a critical role in the school and our community in general. It's my great honor to ask if we could extend today's cordialities and privileges of the floor and

welcome Principal McLaughlin to our People's House. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Rozic, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here Mr. McLaughlin, to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor and commend you on the work you're doing at your institution. I hope that you continue that great work and the school continues to be a success. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Reilly.

MR. REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to welcome two of our -- two of my constituents from Staten Island, Ms. Zulma Cruz and Ms. Karen Jackson, who represent Project Hospitality. It's the largest social service agency in Staten Island; they serve approximately 40,000 people per year. They operate our -- our food pantries, they serve our homeless population. They provide counseling, substance abuse and alcoholism counsel -- counseling. They will do a tremendous job for all of Staten Island. And I'd like to highlight Zulma Cruz, one of the -- the members I mentioned. Today, she received the Notable Woman in Human Services Hall of Fame Award from Strong Non-profits for a Better New York. I just want to acknowledge her great achievement on behalf of Staten Island, and please welcome them to the Chamber and give them all our respect and welcome.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Assemblymember Reilly, the Speaker and all the members, we

welcome you both here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor, congratulate you on the great work that you're doing for those in need in Staten Island. We hope that you continue that work. And congratulations on the award, it is quite an achievement. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Blake for an introduction.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and -- colleagues. I take this time to -- to rise and acknowledge the great students that are part of the Diversity in Medicine Program and -- and giving credit, first and foremost, to our Majority Leader, Crystal Peoples-Stokes, who is the one that brought our attention to it, first and foremost. The -- the AMSNY, which is the Medical Association that has brought attention to them, is in large part because in New York State, despite there being about 31 percent of Black and Latino being the population, only 12 percent of our physician workforce are Black and Latino.

To our colleagues, about a year ago there was a data point that resonated with many of us that there were less black male doctors last year than there were going back to 1977, which is one of the reasons why we put forth funding for this program and support for this program. We had the opportunity to see some of the great students, including Sebastian, a great young man at Albert Einstein, grew up in a single parent household from Brooklyn, or many other young people that have become part of this program, ten different

students that have been a part of it, Mr. Speaker. And so, we're very excited and grateful. They come each year. They're demonstrating the opportunities of how we provide more opportunities for young people to become doctors and part of the medical field, and I'm asking that we extend the cordiality of this House for our Diversity in Medicine Medical Scholarship students and everyone a part of AMSNY, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Blake, the Speaker and all the members, we extend to you -- and we can't see you, the privileges of the floor. We hope that you continue on in your careers, that you will endeavor to be the best possible physicians that you can, and that you'll come back and serve your communities, because we are in great need. Thank you so very much. Keep up the great work.

(Applause)

Mr. Lavine.

MR. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to interrupt the proceedings to -- to introduce a -- a dear friend and one of our State's outstanding educators and Superintendents. And this is Dr. Lorna Lewis, who is presently Superintendent of the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District, and has served, and will be honored later with a resolution with extraordinary distinction as the 2018-2019 President of the New York State Council of School Superintendents. Notably, Dr. Lewis is the first woman of color to serve in that capacity.

But this is not the first of her ceiling-breaking requirements. She has served, as well, as the Superintendent of the East Williston School District, and is -- as the President of the Nassau County School Superintendents. Her extraordinary career began at Fordham University where, unlike almost, I'm sure, anyone here, she majored in Physics, and then she got her Master's at Columbia's College of Education. And she was Science Chair, as well, at Rockville Center. And, in addition to all this, she is not only just a dedicated educator and administrator, but she is a national and a Statewide leader in public education and education in general.

I last had the privilege to see my friend, Dr. Lewis, a few weeks ago at Temple Beth-El in Great Neck, where she was the keynote speaker for Martin Luther King Day, and her remarks were meaningful and provocative. And as I told her on that day, Dr. King would have been very, very proud of her.

Finally, I am very lucky to have as my hometown the little City of Glen Cove, New York. And when Robert Kennedy was our United States Senator -- and it never ceases to amaze me how when you say those words, "Robert Kennedy" there's almost a hush that falls over any room, and that's a tribute to Robert Kennedy, but Robert Kennedy was the Senator from Glen Cove, New York. And many years ago, I heard Robert Kennedy say that those of us who try to help children are in the position of never standing so tall as when we stoop to help a child. And no one has -- stands taller than my friend, Dr. Lorna Lewis.

So, thank you for allowing me to make this introduction and I'd ask you, certainly, to provide her with all the privileges of the House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Lavine, the Speaker and all the members, Dr. Lewis, welcome to the New York State Assembly, the People's House.

Congratulations on a terrific career and new honors. May you continue to do the great work that you're doing for the betterment of our children. Thank you so very much, you are always welcome here.

(Applause)

Mr. Reilly.

MR. REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity, again, to rise to welcome some of our constituents from Staten Island. So, I'd like to recognize some of your former -- or colleagues of them, Lou Tobacco is up again. So, yes, second -- second week in a row. But he's also up here with some members of Staten Island University Hospital/Northwell, Ms. Karen Lacovic (phonetic), Angela Rokanova (phonetic), Paul Spinelli (phonetic), Dawn Riko (phonetic). They're from Staten Island University Hospital, which is our largest not-for-profit in Staten Island. They are our largest employer, and they do some really great work. So, I wish that we can extend all our welcomes to them. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Reilly, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome these distinguished colleagues from the Staten Island University

Hospital/Northwell, here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor and maybe you'll choose another tour guide next time, because we -- we thought we sent Mr. Tobacco on his way and not as a rubber bouncing ball. Thank you so very much. Happy to see you again, Lou, you're always welcome here. Congratulations.

(Applause)

Ms. De La Rosa.

MS. DE LA ROSA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you could help me in welcoming and introducing a group of students from Yeshiva University's High School for Boys. I have the privilege of representing Yeshiva University situated in the heart of Washington Heights. And the boys who are here today are led by their advisor and principal, Dr. Seth Taylor, and Sam Bursetic (phonetic), who is here today to observe Session and watch government in action. These students meet once a week during lunch to discuss different issues and learn about how local government works. They publish a school newsletter -- and are -- and the club members have started to attend local political events when they are not in class. They meet with their City Council representatives, their State Senators, their Assemblypeople, I had the privilege of coming and -- and talking to a class last year. And they're just eager to learn how government works and be an active participant in what we call Democracy. So, if you could help us to welcome them and extend the privileges of the floor. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. De La Rosa, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome these distinguished students here to the New York State Assembly, hope that your time here has been instructive, that you appreciate and will enjoy the proceedings of the day, and that you'll continue that great education you're getting and continue to serve this State and this country. Thank you so very much. You are always welcome here.

(Applause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, if you could call the Ways and Means Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Ways and Means.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ways and Means, Speaker's Conference Room immediately. Thank you.

Mr. Raia.

MR. RAIA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purposes of an introduction. On behalf of myself and Assemblymember Mike Fitzpatrick, I'd like to welcome folks from the Commack School District, Commack High School.

Please stand up.

They're up here this year celebrating their 46th year of celebration of music in our schools. As we all know, we have all -- all of the local -- NYSSMA and SCMEA are all up, and if you haven't had a chance to see them perform in the Concourse, you really should go. These are some of the best musicians that you will ever hear. So,

joining us, we have students from the Jazz Messengers Instrumental Jazz Ensemble, the Vocal Jazz Ensemble and just as important, are student ambassadors that are up here meeting with members, telling them what their schools need to function: Foundation aid, foundation aid. Yes, we know. And also, I'd like you to welcome the Superintendent, Dr. Donald James, who is -- is no stranger to any of us up here, fighting for his school district and for his students.

Mr. Speaker, please give -- I -- I ask you to give all the cordialities of the House. These folks know the importance of music in schools, and -- and hopefully, we all do, too. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you. On behalf of Mr. Raia, Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly and commend your leadership for bringing you here, hope that you have delivered a powerful message today and while you've been here about the importance of music in our schools and music in our lives. Thank you so very much, and keep up that important work.

(Applause)

Ms. Buttenschon.

MS. BUTTENSCHON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would request at this time to introduce members of higher education. We have students that are in attendance from various independent colleges across the State, which include Niagara University, Nazareth College, University of Rochester that are here today. These students come here to meet with us in regards to expressing their needs

Statewide, and the needs of all students in higher education. So, if you would provide them with a warm welcome to the Assembly, I'd sincerely appreciate it.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Buttenschon, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome these college students here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor, this is the People's House. We hope that you will come and visit us and further enhance us and let us know the important needs that you have as citizens and students in this State. Thank you so very much for your time.

(Applause)

Go to resolutions on page 3. The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 141, Ms. Lupardo. Legislation Resolution memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2019 as American Red Cross Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 142, Mr. Michael Miller. Legislation Resolution memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2019 as Crossing Guard Appreciation Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is

adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 143, Mrs. Barrett. Legislation Resolution memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 3-9, 2019 as School Social Worker Week in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 144, Ms. Joyner. Legislation Resolution memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2019 as Nutrition Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

On consent, page 10, Calendar No. 72, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02211, Calendar No. 72, Richardson, Hyndman, Ortiz, Blake, De La Rosa, Walker, Davila. An act to amend the Correction Law and the Executive Law in relation to certificates upon discharge.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02549, Calendar No. 73, Fahy, D'Urso. An act to amend the Election Law, in relation to removing the requirement that party emblems be included in ballot

design.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03002, Calendar No. 74, Solages, D'Urso, Dickens, Ramos, Simon, Barron, McDonough, Lawrence, Lavine, Galef, Buchwald, Rozic, Jacobson. An act to amend the General Municipal Law and the Public Authorities Law, in relation to requiring each industrial development agency to live stream all open meetings and public hearings and make the recordings of such meetings and hearings available on the webpage of the Industrial Development Agency.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03077, Calendar No. 75, Gottfried, Cahill, Englebright, Galef, Jaffee, Otis, Steck, D'Urso, Abinanti. An act to amend the Public Health Law and the Insurance Law, in relation to certain application and referral forms for health care plans.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03337, Calendar No. 76, Dinowitz, Gottfried, Seawright, Stirpe. An act to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules, in relation to grounds for vacating an arbitration award on the basis of partiality of the arbitrator.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03832, Calendar No. 77, McDonald, Galef, Stirpe, Fahy, Steck, Montesano, Crespo, Simon, Cahill, M. G. Miller, Colton, Blake, Gottfried, Morinello, Ashby,

Pichardo. An act to amend the Public Buildings Law, in relation to the authority of the Commissioner of General Services to lease public buildings.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03840, Calendar No. 78, McDonald, Ortiz, Morinello, Taylor, Griffin. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to requiring that information be made available to parents regarding window blind safety.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: First vote of the day, Mr. Speaker. So, hopefully, members who are in and around the Chambers will come and cast their votes immediately and we can proceed. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you. First vote of the day, members. If you're in your seats, please vote now. If you're in the sound of our voice, please come to the Chamber and cast your vote.

ACTING SPEAKER DENDEKKER: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 4061 --

ACTING SPEAKER DENDEKKER: Oh, excuse me, I'm sorry.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes for an announcement.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, if you could please call the Committee on Rules to the Speaker's Conference Room, the Committee on Rules.

ACTING SPEAKER DENDEKKER: Thank you. Rules to the Conference Room. Rules to the Speaker's Conference Room.

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04061, Calendar No. 80, Englebright, Peoples-Stokes, Glick, Galef, Abinanti, Seawright. An act to amend the Public Officers Law, in relation to defining the terms "retiree" and "beneficiary" within the Freedom of Information Law.

ACTING SPEAKER DENDEKKER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04071, Calendar No. 81, Gottfried. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to membership on the Public Health and Health Planning Council.

ACTING SPEAKER DENDEKKER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st, 2020.

ACTING SPEAKER DENDEKKER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to advance the A-Calendar, 15-A, and it has on it, Mr. Speaker, a continuing resolution of both the Senate and the Assembly providing for the election of four Regents to the University of the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, the A-Calendar is advanced.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: So, we're going to start with Assembly No. 130, which again, Mr. Speaker, is a Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and the Assembly.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 130, Mr. Benedetto. Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly providing for the election of four Regents of the University of the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Ra.

MR. RA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I offer the following amendment, waive its reading, move its immediate adoption and request the opportunity to briefly explain it.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Please explain while we read your amendment.

MR. RA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As many of us know who have been here for the last several years, we have two ways that we appoint Regents: We either do a Concurrent Resolution by the first Tuesday in March, which is what we'll be doing today, or a Joint Session is convened, which many of us are familiar with, that we've done in the past. The difference between the two processes for -- for our sake is that at that meeting there is an opportunity to cast a vote on each individual candidate, and we have four Regents that are up for reappointment today, and there is an opportunity to nominate different candidates which our side of the aisle has done in recent years after attending the interviews for the Board of Regents.

I think that, you know, we all can respect the role of -- of our Board of Regents members. They serve without compensation, they volunteer their time, so I certainly have great respect for each and every member of the Board for putting forth that time. But, I -- while I do believe that several of the candidates that are up for reappointment today are -- are well-qualified and should be reappointed, I do believe that there is one candidate that perhaps we would benefit from convening that Joint Session and having the

opportunity to look at and nominate other candidates.

I was able to -- I didn't attend the interviews, but I have watched the videos, and there were several candidates for the Third Judicial District who I believe possessed the credentials and the experience that would enable them to serve on the Board of Regents as -- as experienced educators. And, in particular, I was troubled by some of the non-answers to questions that were asked for that Regents candidate.

So, what this amendment would do would be -- it would appoint the two at-large Regents that are up for reappointment, it would appoint the Regent from the 13th District, which is Staten Island, but it would leave vacant that Third Judicial District spot which, if adopted, would result in us convening a Joint Session next Tuesday for the appointment of the Third District. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Ra, we have examined your amendment and found it germane to the bill before the House.

On the amendment, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those of us who've been around awhile, we -- normally this is a process where this is a Joint Session of both the Senate and the Assembly. Our colleagues from the Senate would be in our Chambers now and, as Mr. Ra explained, we would individually go through a process of nominating and seconding nominations for four independent Regents. We have the benefit this time, Mr. Speaker, and

I do think it's a benefit, of -- of having the opportunity to have all of these Regents taken with one vote. We should commend, and I certainly do honor the Chair of our Education Committee and the Chair of our Higher Ed Committee because they have actually gone through the exact same process that they would have gone through had this been a Joint Session. This is a Joint Resolution, it essentially gets us to the same point.

And so, while, you know, I respect my colleague's right to offer an amendment, I do think that the process that we have before us is the right one that we should be going through today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

And, again, I want to honor the Chairs of those respective Committees for the work that they put in to come up with these recommendations.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On -- on the amendment, the Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Announces the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The amendment is defeated.

Mr. Benedetto.

MR. BENEDETTO: Mr. Speaker, on the resolution.

We stand here today beginning to vote on this resolution, which is a continuation of history. The Board of Regents of the State University of the State of New York was established by

statute in May 1st, 1784. We continue on the tradition today. In 1894, by the way, it became a Constitutional body by the Constitution of the State of New York. It contains -- the Board of Regents contains 17 members, 13 from the Judicial Districts of the State of New York, four at-large members. They are elected to five-year terms, and they are non-salary. The only reimbursement they get is for when they come to meetings on behalf of the Board. Travel expenses. Yet, they stand in the shoes of greatness. People over the years who have served on the Board of Regents, names such as Alexander Hamilton, Theodore Roosevelt, Grover Cleveland, John Jay, just to name a few distinguished personages that have served on the Board of Regents.

The Board of Regents is -- is in charge of setting educational policy here in the State of New York. They're responsible for the general supervision of the educational activities presiding over the University of the State Education Department, the University of the State of New York. It is the most comprehensive and unified education system in our United States. They supervise all elementary, secondary, post-secondary institutions, plus libraries, museums, public broadcasting, records and archives, the professions here in the State of New York, adult career and continuing educational services. All institutions, both public and private that fit this bill.

We are today carrying on the tradition, carrying on a group who has shown themselves over the years to be good common sense, intelligent people that have guided our educational systems for over 200 years, and we will continue that today. I urge everybody to

vote yes on this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Glick.

MS. GLICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the members who participated in the interview process. In recent years, we have also provided the opportunity for people across the State to observe through live-streaming, which is, I think, an important improvement in our transparency and ability for New Yorkers across the State who are interested to view the proceedings.

In addition, we have four individuals who have -- who are incumbents on the Board of Regents, and the Board of Regents itself has a diverse group of people, because, while it deals with education, there are other matters that come before the Board: The Office of Professions, and my colleague, Mr. Benedetto, enumerated the wide range of areas that are overseen by the Board itself. These individuals have -- share their experience and their information and they work on a committee system, serving the State Education Department with the policy leadership that is crucial to continuing to make New York State a beacon for public and private education across the nation.

I'm particularly interested in their work on behalf of our University System, both public and private, and these individuals are well-versed, come before us and are available to the people in their districts. And so, I hope that we will have a strong support for all of the members before us today. And I want to thank all of the

individuals who are seeking to be reappointed for their service up till now, and what they will continue to do for New York going forward. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Ra.

MR. RA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to -- to speak a little bit regarding this process. And I -- I do want to start by thanking our new Chair, Mike Benedetto, as well as the Higher Ed Chair, Deborah Glick, because I know they do put a lot of time into interviewing the candidates along with our Rankers, Mary Beth Walsh and Doug Smith, who sat through interviews along with some of -- some of our other members.

But many who have been here in the past will recall that our side of the aisle has often used this opportunity to talk about this process, or really lack thereof. You know, going back to when I first started in the Assembly, we would have -- it would be, you know, an interview, maybe a few people would attend it, and then we'd come out the other end, we -- we'd have that Joint Session, and people would be appointed. Nobody really knew what happened between point A and point B, really. A few years ago, there was a bit of a firestorm about the implementation of Common Core, and all of a sudden we'd go down the hall to those meetings and it was jam-packed. There were people lined up like a horseshoe around the entire room, members of both Houses interested in asking questions of the prospective candidates for the Board of Regents. And we were able to appoint some -- some really good, experienced educators to the

Board. There was a change in who -- in the Chancellor to the current Chancellor Betty Rosa, and things, perhaps started to move in a -- in a better direction for the Board as a whole.

But, as I've said in recent years, good outcomes don't always mean that the process was good. And as we're seeing here today that we -- we're doing this a little differently than we have in recent years. Back in 2010 it was done in this manner. But, that is basically what the Education Law says about the appointment of the Board of Regents. It says that we either do a Concurrent Resolution by the first Tuesday in March, or we convene a Joint Session the second Tuesday in March. It really says nothing else. And we, after all these years, I think believe there should be more of a transparent and open process to the general public to know what's going on and how somebody becomes a member of the Board of Regents.

I have great respect for -- for, you know, these -- these incumbent Regents, but I do think that in some instances we are not appointing the most qualified or best candidate. And I think that a process that was more transparent would produce better -- better outcomes. We have, you know, so much that we put in the hands of the Board of Regents, from overseeing our educational system to all of the licensed professions. So, yes, no question there is a need for diversity of -- of opinions and diversity of backgrounds within the Board. But, I've -- I've always felt that utilizing the at-large positions was a great way to get that without taking away from having a [sic] experienced person or somebody that has some educational

background serving each of the Judicial Districts that they serve.

So, I -- I do think that the time is far passed for this process to have some structure and be reformed in such a way that perhaps there were actually discussions back in those Judicial Districts. And I've cited this in the past, but a few years ago many of our colleagues did exactly that. Leading up to the process, they got together, back -- back home in their district and they -- they vetted candidates publicly and then those candidates came up and interviewed. That's what the process should be. It gives an opportunity for public input so that the public knows what we're doing, because we do put great faith in these members of the Board of Regents. Again, not just overseeing the professions, they make educational decisions that can have major impacts on our districts, both in terms of the services they deliver and fiscal concerns as well. They can change a regulation that can become a major expense for our districts.

So, I hope that one day we will find a happy medium here where we will have a process that is more open, more transparent, and gives more of an opportunity for the general public to have a say in these individuals who have such an impact on the lives of both of our children and -- and all New Yorkers. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mrs. Gunther.

MRS. GUNTHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this important issue, for allowing me to speak on this resolution in support of my good friend, Regent Josephine

Finn. Regent Finn has been a constant present in our community and continues to work tirelessly on behalf of all New York students. She obtained her Juris Doctorate from the University of Buffalo Law School, and has been admitted to the practice law for the last 33 years. She is an associate professor at Sullivan County Community College, and also ran their Paralegal program.

In addition to Finn's legal accomplishments, she has been active with many community -- community groups in my -- my area. She served on My Brother's Keeper workgroup and advocated that more funding for the program come to rural areas like the ones I represent. She has worked closely with the Center for Discovery to ensure that children living with developmental disabilities have access to the services they need. I am proud to have her representing my district on the Board of Regents, and I'm proud to call Jo Jo a great friend. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Cusick.

MR. CUSICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on the resolution. Today I rise in support of Regent Christine Cea. Dr. Cea has served on the Board of Regents since 2019 when this august Body appointed her back then. She represents the district that represents Richmond County. Dr. Cea has served with distinction on the Board of Regents these last ten years. She has served on the standing Committees of P-12, Higher Education, Cultural Education, Ethics and Professional Practice and she is -- she

is the Chair of the Regents Advisory Council on Post-secondary Education for Students with Disabilities since 2013. This Council advises the Board of Regents on policies to improve the transition of students with disabilities to post-secondary education.

I've known Dr. Cea for over a decade, she has been dedicated to her community. By trade, she is a research scientist. She serves on the Board of the College of Staten Island. She's very active, Mr. Speaker, in the disabilities community on Staten Island, working at the renowned Institute of Basic Research, and working with the local Council for Developmental Disabilities.

Christine Cea, over her tenure as Regent from Richmond County, has worked with many of the local officials to make sure that our students are well taken care of. She works diligently to make sure that every student in the State of New York has a great education and she is very knowledgeable on the issues of those families with children with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Christine Cea has dedicated her time at the Regents to the people of the State of New York and I know that she will continue that work, and that's why I stand today in support of Dr. Cea being reappointed to the Board of Regents by this resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Bronson.

MR. BRONSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Regent Wade Norwood. Wade is a good friend of mine and I've

worked with him in many capacities. He's a dedicated public servant, and he serves New York State as a Regent At-Large. In addition to his valuable work in shaping the education our children receive through his work on the Board's Standing Committee on the Professions and its Common Core Learning Standards Workgroup, Wade has been very active in helping us in the Greater Rochester area as we struggle with many of the barriers that exist to educating our children. He works in the area of health, in the area of nutrition. He's worked to try to address poverty barriers and he is a strong proponent of My Brother's Keeper.

Wade also, in his day life, serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Common Ground Health, a not-for-profit community health planning agency that promotes public health in the Finger Lakes region, which has a record of service aimed toward ensuring accessible, affordable and high quality health care for the entire population of the region and, in particular, the underserved populations of the region. He is an active leader at the State and local level, co-Chairing the New York State Health Department's Workgroup on Health Care Workforce, and also co-Chairing the region's Systems Integration Initiative, a cross-sector effort to integrate services and data for families affected by poverty led by our former colleague, Assemblymember Joe Morelle. As a member of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Commission, Norwood helps to guide funding for economic development, job development and anti-poverty efforts across the region. He also is a

decision-maker for the Greater Rochester Health Foundations Healthy Futures Advocacy Strategy.

Regent Norwood always seeks to lift others as he climbs. He has a 30-year record of community service that includes past membership on the Rochester City Council, the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority and the State's Committee on Open Government.

Mr. Speaker, Regent Norwood's record as a Regent and record of his public service demonstrates his commitment to putting our students and our families first, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Sayegh.

MR. SAYEGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak in support of the resolution. As an educator and someone that has served as a Board of Ed Trustee for six years, and having worked with the Big Five school districts and the Westchester-Putnam School Board Association, I've had the pleasure of following the work and the activities of the Board of Regents. And I can attest to the fact that the Board of Regents have been a transparency group that has been dedicated to what confronts education, especially urban education. Their values of diversity, their commitment to serving the needs of Special Ed children, English Language Learners and especially science, technology and math initiatives is commendable. I can attest to their stability and their leadership, especially in protecting the interests of public education.

Their annual support for budgets that this past year was a recommendation of \$2.2 billion is really an indication of how they value public education. And as someone that values public education and make sure that we provide a valid and adequate amount of funding, I support the continuation of this present makeup of the Board of Regents and support the renomination of the four Board Regent members. So, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mrs. Arroyo.

MRS. ARROYO: Thank -- thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to speak in this important subject. My support to each one of the members of the Regents that are up for reappointment. As a member of the Education Committee and Chair of the Committee on Bilingual Education, I had worked close with them for years since I am here. I take time sometime from New York City to come to meetings. And it's important that when we speak about a Regent, we know really what they are doing. If we see them working, if we have contact with them and we have to answer questions that they have, or they can answer questions that we have.

As a member of this Assembly for 25 years, I have been very close to the Department of Education, because education is my priority. Respectfully, each one of the individuals that are for reappointment merit our respect, our admiration, and we have to thank them for the time that they dedicate to our children and our

professionals in the State of New York.

I really congratulate the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Benedetto, for the work that he's doing, and I support him, and I support the four members that are for reappointment. It is important that we respect the people that dedicate themselves with no pay, because those professionals can be someplace else making a lot of money. I am voting in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Glick.

MS. GLICK: Thank you. I -- I rise to speak specifically on -- on the renomination and election of Dr. James Cottrell. Dr. Cottrell happens to be a constituent and somebody I've known for many years. But quite separate and apart from that, he has -- the Board actually reviews professional -- Office of Professions, medical professionals and others. And Dr. Cottrell is a vital voice on the Regents in regard to the Office of Professions.

He has a distinguished career. He's been -- he is the Distinguished Service Professor and Chairman Emeritus of Anesthesiology at U -- at SUNY Downstate, and served on the medical staff of Kings County Hospital, Long Island Community College Hospital, Lutheran Medical Center, New York University Hospital and Bellevue Hospital Center, and has served as an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at NYU. And he is the past President of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and was awarded their national organization's highest honor.

We are fortunate to have this distinguished medical professional on the Board of Regents and I am pleased and proud to stand in support of his nomination and his election and re-election to the Board of Regents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

On the resolution, the Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The resolution is adopted.

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you very much, Mr.

Speaker, for the opportunity to interrupt our proceedings for some introductions. I have two sets.

First, let me start with three individuals who play an absolutely key role in our educational institutions in the Western part of the State: Dean McKnight, who's the Director of Facilities for the Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES; Dave Hardman, the Senior Maintenance Mechanic at Cuba-Rushford; and Tim Abbey, who is the Director of Facilities in Dunkirk. The first two individuals are in Assemblyman Joe Giglio's district, and Mr. Abbey is in my district. And when you walk into these schools and see how well they're maintained, especially some of these older schools, it is a real testament to their skill and dedication. And if you would welcome them to our Chambers, I would certainly appreciate it, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Goodell, Mr. Giglio, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you, gentlemen, here to the State of New York Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Thank you for the work that you're doing to keep those schools and students well in Western New York. Continue that great work, and you are always welcome here. Thank you so very much for coming.

(Applause)

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Also, it is my pleasure to introduce from my district, Kathy Lynch, who is the Executive Director of the Hultquist Place, which is run by Lutheran Social Services. And Hultquist Place is an assisted-living facility in my county; absolutely superb care, part of our retirement campus. And, indeed, when my own mother needed services, she was part of the Lutheran Campus. And we are forever indebted to the level of care that they provided, not just, obviously, to my mom whom I loved a lot, I've known her all my life, but to all the other seniors that they treat just like family. And when you have an aging parent, it is such a relief and comfort to know that you have high quality care with people who truly do have that compassion and make the difference. So, if you would introduce and welcome Kathy Lynch to the floor of the Assembly. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Goodell, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you you here, ma'am, to the New York State Assembly and extend to you

the privileges of the floor. And our thanks, obviously, for Mr. Goodell for the care that you provided his family. We hope you continue to do that for all the families that come to need your service. Thank you so very much, and congratulations on such great work.

(Applause)

Mr. Ra.

MR. RA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an introduction on behalf of our colleague, Mr. DiPietro. Joining us in the Chamber are representatives from the Western New York Alzheimer's Association. These individuals do a fantastic job of protecting our loved ones who -- who are struggling with that ailment, and certainly providing support to them and their families. And I'd appreciate it if you can extend to them the cordialities of the House. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. DiPietro, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor and, of course, our thanks for the work that you do to help individuals who are inflicted with Alzheimer's, and the families, too, I suspect, who need just as much care. Thank you so very much for that work, we will always appreciate it. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes for an introduction.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to, on behalf of our colleague, Ellen Jaffee, welcome

the social workers from the National Association of Social Work Month. These folks are here and we celebrate them. They are students from Dominican College that is located in Ms. Jaffee's district. There's Necelie Garcia (phonetic), who is a social work intern in the District Office; there's Dr. Lucinda Doyle, Program Director and Assistant Professor; Professor Bonnie Raab, she's a Professor of Social Work and Director of Field Education; and Professor Mary -- Melody Hyppolite. They brought with them their -- our future and the next generation of leaders in the field of social work.

Mr. Speaker, if you could please, on behalf of Member Jaffee, welcome these wonderful New York State citizens to our Chambers and give them the cordialities of our floor. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf Ms. Jaffee, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. We appreciate both those who are instructing in social work, as well as those who are teaching, that you have taken the time to come and visit us today. Hoping that you will be successful in your life endeavors and make people's lives better. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, if you would call on Mr. Otis for an announcement, please.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Otis for the

purposes of a [sic] announcement.

MR. OTIS: It is 2:44, and I think momentarily, when Session ends, there will be a Democratic Conference in the Speaker's Conference Room.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Otis announces a Democratic Conference in the Speaker's Conference Room.

And Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, do -- do we have any further housekeeping or resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: We have numerous fine resolutions, which we will take up with one vote. On the resolutions, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolutions are adopted.

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 145-150 were unanimously approved.)

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, March the 6th, tomorrow being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Assembly stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 2:45 p.m., the Assembly stood adjourned until Wednesday March 6th at 12:30 p.m., Wednesday being a Session day.)

