

# New Action/UFT

April 2014

## UFT Executive Board Resolution: Election of District Representatives

The following is drawn from a resolution, motivated by New Action's Jonathan Halabi at the Executive Board meeting of April 7, 2014. Before any discussion occurred, Assistant Secretary Leroy Barr, a leader of Unity Caucus moved to table, which passed, cutting off debate.

*In June 2003 the UFT Executive Board changed the District Representative position, an elected position for 34 years, to an appointed position, and then President Weingarten argued that the change was necessary based on the DOE's move to Regions and would not have a negative impact on the service relationship between the chapter leader, the members, and the DR. She also maintained that with the movement to Regions we were not going to have districts and an appointed position would be a better one for our UFT. Regions no longer exist and networks appear to be on the way out. The democratic process is best served when elections determine who will represent the membership, and the election of DR's by Chapter Leaders can only cement the relationship between the two and further union democracy.*

*"Therefore be it resolved, that the UFT Executive Board calls for a change from the current appointment to the election of District Representatives."*

## Abusive? Unqualified? Both? - The Office of Adult and Continuing Education

Most New Yorkers are unaware that thousands of adults across the City attend free ESL, GED, and job training programs run by the NYC Office of Adult and Continuing Education (OACE), a branch of the DOE. Many of the adults who come to improve their lives are parents of children in NYC public or charter schools. OACE teachers are dedicated adult education professionals.

Since September 2012, the OACE has been run by an elementary/middle school superintendent, Rose-Marie Mills, and her numerous elementary and middle school administrative appointees, whose mission has been to impose an elementary school curriculum for teaching adult students. Large sums have been squandered this year on children's books with inappropriate elementary themes to be used in adult education classrooms. Teachers had absolutely no input in selecting these materials. Moreover, all suggestions for adult appropriate materials were ignored or denied.

There are boxes and boxes of unused warehoused children's books, and OACE teachers have been left with a dearth of appropriate instructional materials. Nevertheless, Superintendent Mills demands test scores gains, and teachers who don't make the cut will receive unsatisfactory ratings.

Mills is obsessed with data. OACE teachers have been harassed and disrespected nonstop since she commenced her reign of terror. Morale is at an all-time low.

The new DoE administration needs to take a close look at the OACE. Misspent funds? Completely data driven program? Terrorized teachers? Is this any way to run an educational program?

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