

Buffalo BCSA Local 10 Applauds Appointment of New Regent

Catherine Fisher Collins is the newly appointed Regent from Western New York. She replaces Robert Bennett who held the seat for 20 years. In a surprising political move, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, endorsed Catherine Collins for the seat that Bennett held. It is widely believed that this was done at the behest of Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples Stokes, who was seeking a change in local representation.

The contrasts between Bennett and Collins are easily seen. Bennett is a strong advocate for Common Core and teacher/administrator evaluation reforms. Collins wants a slowdown in reform. She advocates for those in closest contact with students and is sympathetic to their challenges. She, herself, is a SUNY Empire State College Professor.

While Bennett is from suburban WNY, Collins has a sensitivity and is well-versed in Buffalo's urban educational issues. She previously served on the Buffalo Board of Education. Her stated goal is to be a "voice for the voiceless" in educational matters. One manifestation of her approach is the NYS education budget which she pledges to make fair for all. She wishes to move the course of the Regents in a new direction.

BCSA Local 10 is pleased to have been an early advocate for Catherine Collins. Buffalo administrators believe that she will be a strong proponent on the Board of Regents for Buffalo concerns. Long vilified and neglected union members in the BPS look to Collins to make their needs a priority and to prevail on fellow Regents to meet those needs. BCSA applauds Regent Collins and looks forward to her "new direction."