

Happy New Year ! I am not sure how happy we, as Union members , will be in 2018. The Janus case before the US Supreme Court could be decided against the unions. This will make it much more difficult to have a strong united voice for school leaders and public schools in our state.

In NYS , we will be facing difficult challenges in addition to the possible outcome of the court case . the Governor will be announcing his Budget proposal in January. Our State Comptroller, Tom DiNapoli has already announced that there will be a shortfall in the budget due to reduced tax revenue . In addition, NYS is very fearful of Federal cuts and tax changes that will adversely effect the state's income. NYSFSA will continue to support an increase in Foundation Aid and the NYSED request for funding certain initiatives that have been identified by the Board of Regents. It will be a difficult task under these financial conditions. The NYSED Commissioner, Dr Mary Ellen Elia, has informed NYSFSA at our monthly stake holders meetings that she will begin scheduling focus groups on the present APPR process. She reminds us that the NYSED regulations must be in line with the NYS law on the process. School leaders are not only concerned with their own evaluation under the current APPR but also how ineffective it has been for teacher evaluation. NYSFSA will be an active participant in conversations concerning changes in the NYS law and the NYSED regulations.

The third topic that NYSFSA is following closely is the Principal Preparation Project. The PPP has an advisory council which NYSFSA has a representative. Ken Turner, the NYS Regent Fellow who is assigned to the project has conducted numerous focus groups around the state. These focus groups have discussed what are important elements in a school leader's preparation program. The groups have also discussed the proposed Professional Standards for Education Leaders (PSEL). In December, the NYS Board of Regents will vote on accepting the PSEL which is most likely to pass. NYSFSA has reviewed the standards and has been advocating for extensive collaborative Professional Development before full implementation which is anticipated in 2022. NYSFSA will be active in all aspects of the implementation.

NYSFSA wishes everyone a very Happy, Healthy, and productive 2018.