

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Sachem Central Teachers Association (SCTA), I, Frank Scricco, in my capacity as President, hereby endorse the Stronger Together Caucus (ST) candidates: Mr. Mike Lillis, Ms. Bianca Tanis, Ms. Megan DeLaRosa, and Mr. Nate Hathaway.

As President Lincoln stated: "A house divided cannot stand." The SCTA is extremely concerned with the position that Unity Caucus has taken with regards to suburban locals. In these uncertain and perilous times, NYSUT can ill afford to have a leadership that appears to assume two different positions with regards to its membership. Regrettably, I fear that if we fail to find common ground and move unequivocally and speedily in this direction, this union, unlike that of Mr. Lincoln, will not survive.

We cannot permit smaller locals who, due to financial inability, are de facto excluded from the Representative Assembly. We must not continue with open ballots as a form of oppression. We can ill afford to have the voices of our members silenced at RA microphones because the leadership does not wish to hear opposition speech. Freedom of Speech is a fundamental right accorded to all and it must not be silenced, especially not in union halls where equality for all is the underlying principle. Continuing along this oligarchical path will only serve to increase the feelings of disenfranchisement that many of the suburban locals are feeling.

It is our belief that the ST Caucus presents a more unifying position. The members of this slate understand the devastating effect that high stakes testing has had on students and teachers alike. They also are aware that students' scores do not fairly represent the hard work and due diligence of their teachers.

The members of the ST Caucus understand that it is not possible to undermine one candidate's bid for political office and not support another. Especially when knowing that the one undermined will result victorious and seek revenge on those that have bloodied him. The ST Caucus understands the meaning of political pressure as well as transparency. There will be no last-minute backroom deals where some members will be spared the wrath of the angry, victorious, candidate while others will be viciously attacked.

The ST Caucus realizes that suburban districts are fiscally straining to survive. Without a champion who is willing to fight for all members, in equal fashion, it will be a matter of time before suburban public schools will succumb to a slow and agonizing death due to fiscal anemia. Rest assured that as president of one of the largest suburban locals in the state of New York, I will not stand idly by and watch this happen to my local.

In conclusion, I iterate the SCTA's endorsement of the Stronger Together Caucus because it is time that we have a leadership that is understanding of the needs of all its members. We are indeed strongest, when we are *stronger together*.

Respectfully,  
Frank A. Scricco  
World Languages, teacher  
Sachem Central Teachers Association, President