



Dear SCIA Family,

Thank you for the support shown by coming out last night and standing with your Executive Board for our advocacy at the Board of Education meeting.

As a quick recap, Vice President Kerry Berger spoke beautifully about the physical, mental and emotional well-being of our members after becoming mothers. Currently, the Sachem FMLA Policy only allows you to utilize your sick days for the period of initial disability (typically 6-8 weeks) after child birth during your FMLA leave of up to 12 weeks. The SCTA asked the Board of Education to review its practice and we have requested that members who have sick time banked should be able to utilize those days during their 12 week FMLA leave. We understand the emotional and financial decisions our member's battle with when determining if they are prepared to return to work or remain on leave.

In a continued effort to work collaboratively with the district, I spoke at the end of the meeting advocating for the Board of Education to put into policy that the SCTA always be part of the hiring process of building and district level administrators. As the educators and stake holders, we spend our 30 year careers at Sachem. We work and live through the changes, both positive and negative, that our administrators make. We want the opportunity to meet potential candidates and ask questions about their educational background, experience and philosophy and how they are going to improve the lives of our students and staff.

We believe these changes to the district's policies would be of great benefit to our membership as well as the District. We look forward to any future discussions with the Board of Education on these policies and hope they are implemented. If we hear any updates we will let you know as soon as possible.

I truly believe that we are always stronger together! Thank you for your support and have a wonderful and well deserved Mid-Winter Recess.

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