

3/31/2023

I'm Kelly Morenus and I am writing to ask for your vote as a NYSUT Delegate for the Herricks Teachers' Association. For those who do not know me, I teach 6th and 8th grade social studies and social studies immersion at Herricks Middle School. Prior to joining the HTA, I taught elsewhere in New York for four years and completed a teaching internship at a boarding school in the United Kingdom. I am currently serving the HTA on the Professional Negotiations Committee and I hope to continue to serve the HTA in other positions in the coming years.

While I know my name may be new to many of you, I hope you can see my potential as a champion for teachers and choose to cast a vote for me. What I lack in executive board experience I more than make up for in my passion for advocacy. The work we do within our local union is important, but many of the issues facing teachers need to be resolved at the state level, so it is important we are represented well within NYSUT. I believe that NYSUT should prioritize fixing the tier 6 retirement agreement and lobbying to end the public employer exemption for paid family leave in New York State, allowing teachers to have paid time off to care for their newborns or loved ones experiencing illness. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, I believe NYSUT must prioritize providing robust protection for teachers who are facing serious and alarming threats to our freedom and integrity both across the country and here in our home region.

Beyond my positions and passion, I can bring a new and necessary perspective to our NYSUT delegation. I am still in the first half of my career, I have well over twenty years before I will be eligible for retirement, and I have not had my own children yet but hope and plan to in the future. As someone who is not nearing retirement and who hopes to be a parent someday, my focus is intent on not only financial gains, but also on protecting and improving our working conditions in the future.

In addition to my experience as an educator and with the HTA, I am currently serving on the board of directors for a local nonprofit organization, I am a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, and I have a personal history of civic engagement and activism dating back to high school. If you have any questions about my positions or candidacy, please feel free to reach out to me at kmorenus@gmail.com.