

Heather Evers

Submission for the Position of President of HTA

I am submitting my name for the position of President of the Herricks Teachers' Association as well as delegate to the NYSUT Representative Assembly and the AFT Convention.

I have had a variety of experiences that would lead me to be a productive, empowering and effective HTA President. I spent my first 17 years in Herricks teaching at Searingtown School and the next 8 years at Herricks Middle School, building strong and long-lasting relationships with my colleagues across all of our school communities. For two years at Searingtown, I had the opportunity to work mornings as a resource room teacher and afternoons as a trainer alongside our teachers and staff at all three elementary schools as we implemented our word study program, *Foundations*. Fortunately, I was able to continue this work as a Herricks In-District trainer over the next decade, training teachers who wanted to work towards their Wilson Reading System certifications. There were many occasions when it was necessary to step up and speak up for my colleagues in order to obtain the proper training, collaboration time, materials, and support that they needed to be successful. It was my pleasure and honor to do so.

Serving as an HTA representative for 5 years at Searingtown School, as well as over two years as Elementary Vice President on our Executive Council and as a representative on the negotiations team for two of our contracts has given me insight and experience as we come together to establish a fair and protective future for all of us. This time has also given me an opportunity to work with our executive board and representatives from other buildings, advocating for my colleagues at all times. Our constant communication and collaboration as a union is something that gives us solidarity and allows us to have a strong, united voice in the education of our students. In every situation and in the various positions that I have undertaken, one undeniable constant is my unwavering commitment to standing up for all of us, for every member of our entire union. I pledge to always treat each and every one of our members with the dignity, respect and admiration they deserve. I welcome the opportunity to work tirelessly for all of our members and look forward to fostering a more cohesive and empowered union.

Other experiences in this district have also strengthened my ability to work with a variety of HTA members and to consider the needs of all members. These include spending many years as a member of the Curriculum Council, teaching numerous courses for the Herricks Teacher Center and our Extended School Year program, serving on various district-wide committees, and running a special education orientation program for incoming 6th grade students for six years. Keeping open lines of communication, an open mind, a positive attitude and listening, REALLY listening to what my colleagues had to say were imperative in moving forward and accomplishing the goals that we set together, as a team. A president's role is to be the representative of their members- ALL of their members. To defend and support their members, NO MATTER WHAT. Transparency and direct communication is what we need more of so that we can work together in lock step, towards our common goals to protect our quality of life in our workplace and community. This mindset is crucial in order to have a healthy and strong union.

Being a member of the HTA and serving in many leadership roles for the past 25 years has been a challenging and rewarding experience for me. This perspective has been humbling as well as inspiring. I am very appreciative of our members' trust in me and their belief that I will represent and protect them at all turns.

I have also developed strong relationships with parents in our community as well as many administrators over the years. Those connections, built on common respect and common goals, have given me the space and confidence to question, to call out, to confront and to stand firm in situations that required me to protect and defend myself and all of my colleagues when necessary. If you ask anyone that has ever worked with me, in any capacity, they will tell you that I ask “bulldog” questions in a decent, dignified and fair way that brings answers, movement, and eventually change.

As you all know, we are in some of the most challenging times and situations that we have ever had to face together as a union. We all need to be willing to take action and show up for each other. Our newest members need us now, more than ever. I strongly believe that:

- Each and every one of us needs to have a voice and be heard and acknowledged.
- Each and every one of us is an integral part of the education and personal growth of our students.
- Each and every one of us and our experiences, ideas and knowledge count.
- We all need to show up TOGETHER.

Thank you for your consideration. I would truly appreciate your endorsement and vote and look forward to making changes and strengthening our union, as one.

I welcome your feedback and would be happy to answer any questions you may have for me. Feel free to contact me on my cell: 516-448-8640.

Sincerely,
Heather Evers