

# JCEA | COMMUNICATOR

JERSEY CITY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION 1600 JOHN F KENNEDY BOULEVARD JERSEY CITY NJ 07305



Bulletproof backpacks for children reflect a new reality in America ...



*Gerald Lyons   Darwin Ona   Lakendrick Shaw   Sudhan Thomas   Gina Verdibello*

## Board of Education Election

*Gina Verdibello   Sudhan Thomas   Lakendrick Shaw   Darwin Ona   Gerald Lyons*



**Newport's LeFrak Wants to Buy Board of Education**

# #EDUCATION MATTERS

*Beware of false knowledge,  
it is more dangerous than ignorance.*

**Each issue we will bring you comical quotes from ignorant people, and clarify their statements.**

"I don't want you here, I didn't ask for you to be sent here, go to the JCEA and see Tina"

"If you don't submit your plans on google drive, I'll pull the book at 8:00"

"This is not a union school. I don't work for the JCEA"

"Writing is not permitted on any apparel worn in school, AS PER MR. WALKER"

"If you contact by phone or email, anyone outside of this building you are insubordinate"

1/ If you should have the misfortune of landing at this Principals school, odds are you will be sent to the JCEA office. Report to us, and we will help you out. This has been going on for years with this bigoted racist. You can't teach an old dog new tricks, and we do mean dog.

2/ Lesson plans are to be available on your desk or viewable on a computer. Tenured teachers plans are due on Monday, with up to Wednesday written out. Non-tenured teachers plans are due on Monday for the full week. No plans are due, for the following week, at any time. All plans should be available on Monday.

3/ All schools in the Jersey City Public Schools are "union shops," in that you are members of the union and have certain rights granted to you through the NLRB, various laws in N.J. and your negotiated contract. No one 'works' for the JCEA, we are members.

4/ JCEA, NJEA, PUMA, Adidas, Hilfiger and other shirts with a name on the are permissible, AS PER MR. WALKER, as he stated to me when we met in late August. As long as clothing is within the dress code.

5/ In my late August meeting with Mr. Walker, he stated that he wished to see staff reach out to their supervisors for help, materials, supplies, etc. If you call or email anyone in Central Office, you are in no way insubordinate.

## THE COLUMN

### #prettyboybotox

Can someone tell Harpo Marx to get a new act? It's a bit old, don't you think?

### #prettyboybotox

I'm in charge, if you don't like it transfer out, said Medusa. Did we expect a different welcome back message from them on September 3? I did not.

### #prettyboybotox

I don't care about the "acting superintendent" nothing is changing around here. No kidding, you're still the same vile slob you've always been.

### #prettyboybotox

I can't believe what the union did to Lyles, said the sad lad. I guess you won't be going up to Central Office after all.

### #prettyboybotox

You must still have a thing for the secretary you take to a discipline hearing every year since she rejected you. Wasn't it enough getting caught with your pants down once? Never learn...

### #prettyboybotox

If those skinny pants get any tighter, his Holiness will split a seam and no one wants to see those Kmart draws. I suppose the dress code doesn't apply to them.

### #prettyboybotox

More doctors there than the Medical Center...

### #prettyboybotox

The farmer in the dell is either running a diploma mill or getting a kickback doing their graduate work.

### #prettyboybotox

How's Goldilocks holding up with the new living arrangement? Still up to the old tricks we hear. Mentally disturbed imbecile.

### #prettyboybotox

The Wild West

### #prettyboybotox

The ER is now open at Bergen General Hospital

### #prettyboybotox

Where is Lucifer these days, riding their Eldorado around town with those white walls?



### Eight O'clock Meetings

Two per week, may be held on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. These are meetings with a building administrator, a supervisor, a grade level meeting, a departmental meeting, etc. Two is two.

### Late Policy

For Clerks and Teacher Aides: Lateness shall be noted on your performance review/evaluation. Progressive discipline should be adhered to in all cases. Your supervisor may request a hearing to discuss your pattern of lateness, after a department/building level meeting has occurred first. This meeting should be comprised by the supervisor, you and your JCEA representative. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact us at the JCEA, at 201-435-6600.

For Teacher Assistants and Teachers: Upon the sixth lateness you may be docked one-half of your daily pay. The cycle now starts over again. Upon the sixth lateness you may be docked one-half of your daily pay. This will be noted on your PDP and may result in the recommendation of your increment being withheld.



Late is late. This was discussed, at length, at our recently completed negotiations. There is no other policy except what I outlined above.

- ✓ There is no "cut off" time to come in.
- ✓ Do not go home if you're told to. Do not turn around in your car and go home if you're told to.
- ✓ There is no docking of sick time from your bank if you're late
- ✓ Sign in books should be out to at least 8:01 a.m.
- ✓ It should not be incumbent upon the Clerk to pull the sign in books. This is an administrative responsibility.
- ✓ We are aware that many administrators do not report to work by their 7:45 sign in time, so let the sign in books sit out if they are not present to remove them at 8:01.

### After School Meetings

There may be up to eight (8) after school sessions, September through June. The eight sessions are comprised of both faculty meetings and the District wide PD days. For the 2019-20 school year there may be seven faculty meetings scheduled by your Principal. The one (1) District PD day will make the eight after school sessions. NO meetings shall be scheduled on a Friday, with the exception of the January 31, 2020 PD day which was on the District calendar before our negotiations were complete.

There may not be more than one after school faculty meeting per month.

# 5D

# 6D

# 7D

# 2E

# 3E

Mark Azzarello PS #3

Melanie DeFillippis PS #17

Reggie Graham Snyder HS

Ron Greco Lincoln HS

Chris Kuchar PS #17

Charlene Bini PS #15

Jose Garcia PS #38

Tiffany Grant Old PS #20

Colleen Kelleher MS #4

Diane MacKay PS #25

Eileen Cleary DiPrima PS #23 Duncan

Chere Glover Early Childhood

Mike Greco MS #7

Joe Kelly MS #7

Andrea Pastore PS #16

Kevin Reed Ferris HS

Tina Thorp PS #15

## Education Matters Team: “Education Matters Team Responds to Blatant Lies by Billionaire Trump Confidante Super PAC & Change for Children”

October 1, 2019, 9:28 pm | in

**Restoring Vocational Classes** – The members of the Education Matters team on the Board have long voiced and acted upon a pivot to pathways to careers. Earlier this year the Board announced the launch of a CTE (Career and Technology Education) middle school on the south side of the City in addition to restoring and funding various programs in support of CTE path ways. Gerald Lyons is the Board Chair of the Careers / College committee while Board President, Thomas who serves on the Board of Directors of the New Jersey School Board association was part of a state wide task force that brought out a comprehensive report on educational opportunities for the non-college bound learner for adoption by the 550 school districts in New Jersey.

<https://www.njsba.org/news-information/research/projects/final-report-educational-opportunities-for-the-non-college-bound-learner/>

**Preserving Sports Programs** – The “Education Matters” **fully restored the middle school sports and high school athletics programs** that were cut by the former district administration in 2018 and passed the 2019 budget that fully funded both middle school sports and high school athletics. A robust strategy to include private participation to fund the different elements of the program was launched earlier this year in addition to increasing the scope of the cost sharing partnership with the City and reducing employee extra compensation by 25% to allow for these sports programs remain untouched.

**Removal of Lead Water lines** – The Education Matters team has taken the lead on the remediation of the Lead situation in Jersey City schools which has gone on unchecked for the last decade. The remediation of the Jersey City schools are currently underway starting earlier this year with McNair and PS#15 schools as part of the pilot project that will declare these two schools Lead-free. The remediation which is underway in collaboration with the City, the MUA with guidance from the DOE estimates the complete remediation of all schools in the next 18 months at a proposed cost of \$ 3.5 million which was ear marked in the 2019-2020 budget. Board President Thomas, announced this initiative at a Jersey City Together event in March, 2019. Trustee Verdibello who is the Chair of the Facilities committee is the Board Liaison for this district wide initiative.

Total Employee Contribution to TPAF (1996-2010)      \$6,334 BILLION

Total State Contribution to TPAF (1996-2010)      \$1,459 BILLION



**Solving School Budget Crisis:** The Education Matters team has led from the front on the school funding matters with an all-encompassing approach including operations efficiency, identifying and reducing waste, legal challenges, legislative advocacy, staff rationalization and increase in revenues. Board President Thomas has testified in every Senate & Assembly Finance committee hearing in support of full funding for Jersey City in addition to taking the lead on a comprehensive legal suit against the state for it's over \$ 750 million underfunding of the operational budget and \$1 billion in underfunding of the capital expense (LRFP) budget, operations efficiency audit among others. Trustee Shaw, the Chair of the Board Finance Committee is taking the lead on continuing the Board's oversight towards ensuring full funding for JCBOE. The team came out in full support of the proposed 1% payroll tax legislation in April, 2018 which has helped offset some of the state aid cuts. The Change for Children team is funded by New York based billionaire developer and Donald Trump confidante Richard Lefrak who is bitterly opposed to the payroll tax and its expansion and is involved in a legal suit against the City of Jersey City to stop the payroll tax and the funding of JCBOE.

**Lowering Teacher Health Care costs:** In the 2017-2018 school year, the JCBOE spent \$110 million on staff health care costs. The Education Matters team lead from the front with transformative leadership in health care reform that was passed in July 2018 which, in part, withdrew the JCBOE from the bloated, out of control "state employee health benefits program" managed by the state to a self funded program managed directly by the JCBOE which helped **save taxpayers approximately \$25 million**. This eliminated the district's obligation to the Chapter 78 law which, in essence, had been lowering teacher salaries . Teachers are now seeing savings to their healthcare costs and increases in their take home pay, at no additional cost to the district. The JCBOE health insurance model is widely acclaimed as a success model. President Thomas was instrumental in conceptualizing this plan ably assisted by the rest of the Education Matters team. These efforts also helped, in part, to negotiate 4 year contracts starting in 2019 with all 6 labor groups at the JCBOE assuaging stability and job assurance for the over 4,000 employees of JCBOE for the first time in recent history.

**Conduct at Board Meetings :** The Education Matters team has ushered in an era of transparency and accountability through the live telecast of all Board meetings since January, 2018. In addition, Board meetings are now rotated through different parts of the city to allow for greater participation of the citizens. Earlier restricts on public comment have been eliminated to encourage and motivate public comment. Trustee Verdibello, who is the Chair of the Community & Parents committee, holds monthly meetings typically with over 70 parents in attendance.

The Education Matters team is confident that Jersey City voters will focus on facts & progress rather than an irresponsible and unethical smear campaign and we send our gratitude to the hundreds of Jersey City residents who were angered by this fabrication and contacted us in response to it.

## ABOUT THE GOLDWATER INSTITUTE

***The Goldwater Institute is a leading free-market public policy research and litigation organization that is dedicated to empowering all Americans to live freer, happier lives. We accomplish real results for liberty by working in state courts, legislatures, and communities nationwide to advance, defend, and strengthen the freedom guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and the fifty states.***

<https://goldwaterinstitute.org/about/>

5D  
6D  
7D  
2E  
3E

# JERSEY CITY TEACHERS UNION TO APPEAL RULING ON UNION REPS' PAY, NJEA SAYS

**Jersey City teachers cannot be paid by BOE to do full-time union work, appellate court rules**

By **John Heinis** Hudson County View

Jersey City teachers cannot be paid by the public school district to do full-time union work, the Superior Court of New Jersey Appellate Division ruled this morning.

*"Mindful of the principles of statutory construction, we conclude that N.J.S.A. 18A:30-7 does not empower the Board in this case to continue to pay the salaries and benefits of the president of the JCEA and his or her designee, while they devote their entire work-time to the business and affairs of the union," Appellate Court Judges Jose L. Fuentes, Francis J. Vernoia and Scott J. Moynihan.*

The ruling further indicates that the state law in question is clear that "two teachers [who] act exclusively as labor leaders" cannot be paid in public funds, despite previous community bargaining agreements negotiated between the Jersey City Education Association and the BOE.

The court also says that the union president and his designee would not be able to be paid through sick or sabbatical leave, or a leave of absence, since they are still going to work on a regular basis.

The initial lawsuit was filed by members of conservative watchdog group Goldwater Institute on January 4th, 2017, alleging that "release time" – allowing two Jersey City teachers (the union president and his or her designee) to dedicate their work hours to union activities – is illegal and constitutional.

Also known as "association rights," the appellate court notes that these guidelines have previously required the BOE to provide the JCEA president "adequate office and parking facilities."

"We thus hold Section 7-2.3 of the CBA covering the period from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2017, is against public policy and unenforceable," the appellate court concludes, reversing a previous superior court decision that ruled in the JCEA's favor.

In the initial lawsuit, it was stated that taxpayers allegedly paid \$1.2 million in salary and benefits over the past five years to the two JCEA officials being paid through release time.

Sources close to the JCEA said that the union plans to fight the appellate court decision at this time.







## Andrea Pastore HCEA Delivers an Inspirational Message

Delegate Andrea Pastore of Hudson County began the morning with an inspirational message focused on the important role we play as educators. Pastore evoked the official theme for the 2019 NEA RA "Our Democracy. Our Responsibility. Our Time!" and urged the New Jersey Delegation to take time to reflect on their power, for the sake of their students and the future of public education.

"It's our responsibility to make sure our members realize the importance of our work, the importance of giving their support and time, and the importance of unity as we fight for respect, recognition and support" said Pastore. "It is our responsibility to give our best for our students and provide them with the opportunities to achieve."

Pastore encouraged the delegation to consider the power we hold when we organize with the intention of influencing the political landscape. She specifically mentioned the critical role that state-level legislators and Board of Education members play in our daily lives. Pastore further noted that there has never been a more important time for us to influence the outcome of elections.

Pastore shared the inspirational story of her local, the Jersey City Education Association, and the role it played in electing pro-public education board members. Beyond just the election, Pastore emphasized the positive impact that the right elected officials can have on a school. "For years, we had a board of education who was against us and against educators. With hard work, and over time, we turned the board the around. Now eight of the nine Board of Education members support us" said Pastore as the crowd cheered. "Because of this, at our last round of negotiations, we were able to win Chapter 78 relief for our members. We hope this will echo throughout the state."



**FOR FULL 3-YEAR TERM**

**SUDHAN THOMAS 5D**

**GERALD LYONS 6D**

**DARWIN ONA 7D**

**FOR UNEXPIRED TERMS**

**GINA VERDIBELLO 2E**

**LEKENDRICK SHAW 3E**

**FOR JERSEY CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Education Matters team are proven leaders who have a record of fighting for our public schools, our students and our future.

- ✓ Fought to put control of our public schools back in the hands of parents.
- ✓ Work to modernize our public schools and ensure students have access to clean drinking water.
- ✓ Implement vocational and technical education programs to prepare students for 21st century careers.
- ✓ Maintain athletic programs and add after-school programs while being fiscally responsible.

## EDUCATION MATTERS

for

## JERSEY CITY

**Endorsed by Jersey City Educators**

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*Who knows more about education,*

It's time for Trenton to  
**FIX THE  
UNFAIRNESS**





## LeFrak-linked super PAC expects to spend \$250k on Jersey City BOE race, ELEC filing shows

By John Heinis September 3, 2019

A super PAC linked to the LeFrak Organization, one of two entities who sued the City of Jersey City over this year's newly implemented 1 percent business payroll tax, expects to spend \$250,000 on the Jersey City Board of Education race, according to campaign finance records. Fairer NJ registered a continuing political committee with a New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission on August 20th, campaign finance records show.

Jeremy Farrell, a former Jersey City corporation counsel and currently the senior director for the LeFrak Organization, is listed as the chair of the political action committee, while Peter Nichols has signed on as the treasurer.



## Jersey City's top attorney to lead utilities authority

By Terrence T. McDonald | The Jersey Journal

JERSEY CITY -- Jeremy Farrell, Jersey City's corporation counsel, was hired last night as the new head of the city Municipal Utilities Authority, an autonomous agency Farrell has been leading part-time since February.

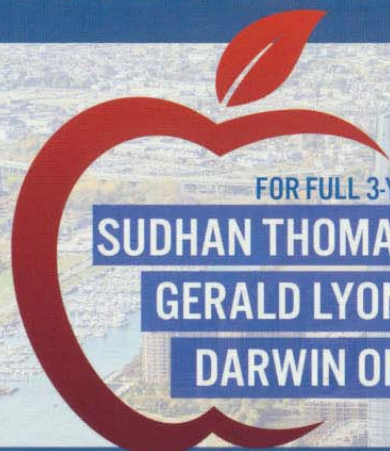
Farrell will earn \$195,000 as the agency's new executive director, a 12 percent boost from the base salary of his predecessor, Dan Becht. The contract, approved last night by the MUA's board of commissioners, runs for five years, ending in 2023.

City spokeswoman Hannah Peterson said Farrell will step down as the city's top attorney, for which he makes \$130,031 annually. He has been performing both roles for the last year, earning a combined \$216,862.

The MUA manages the city's water and sewer systems.

# Education Matters - Developers Don't

## VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH



FOR FULL 3-YEAR TERM

SUDHAN THOMAS 5D

GERALD LYONS 6D

DARWIN ONA 7D

FOR UNEXPIRED TERMS

GINA VERDIBELLO 2E

LEKENDRICK SHAW 3E

FOR JERSEY CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## EDUCATION MATTERS *for* JERSEY CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION