

Renee Y. Greene, Exit Statement

I am resigning from the Newburgh Enlarged City School District Board of Education effective Friday, February 2, 2024, for many reasons, and it's a decision that was carefully thought through.

The main reason is that I don't agree with the direction that we're heading. The common goal/focus should be on ensuring that all students are receiving the best possible education, and that those who are entrusted with educating them have the support they need to effectively provide that education to them! However, it appears to me that the main focus has depreciated, and a climate of chaos and distrust has replaced it.

Currently, the majority of our students are performing below their grade levels in both reading and math. Some teachers have stated that the reading curriculum isn't in alignment with the Science of Reading research. I have personally asked, more than once, for a meeting with those teachers and the superintendent, who ultimately decides which program is implemented. No such meeting has taken place. I believe that it's imperative for constructive conversations to take place between those who are in the classroom teaching and those who make the ultimate decision when purchasing programs and materials. Teacher voices should be heard and taken into consideration when making such important decisions. The term that I'm looking for is "collaboration." A collaborative approach should be used when purchasing such materials to effectively teach our students.

A meeting to openly discuss the disappointing IReady reading and math results was voted against by the majority of the board. It was on the agenda, but not discussed. The community should hear this information, as well as how the deficiencies will be addressed. I don't agree with the decision to put off presenting such important information to the community.

Questions about financial disclosures and policy issues have gone unanswered. How can a rational decision be made on the upcoming budget if we don't have the necessary information to vote? For me, the lack of information, or at times, misinformation, has added to the atmosphere of distrust. It is hoped that now the chaos and distrust will cease, and the focus can be on educating students, and supporting those who are responsible for educating them.

Renee Y. Greene