A MESSAGE FROM KAREN BISSO.

Good Evening and thank you to each of you who took time out of your busy lives and schedules to be a part of the solution to this tragic position parents and educators in New York find themselves in. Parents and teachers have a proven track record of working together for the good of children, however, not until recently have we seen how powerful WE can be when working together against that which we know hurts our children; a force I believe New York State has never seen before, nor knows what to do about. Your voice has been dismissed. Your actions in our refusal movement condemned. Your desires for your children silenced. State Education has attempted to pit educators against parents. But we know better. The State does not realize that you will not be distracted from the most important concern which is your children. Over testing, collection of over 400 criteria points on our children BY NAME, developmentally unsound curriculum exposure, lack of creative writing, loss of down time during the school day for our youngest of learners, lack of balance of rich subjects like Science and Social Studies, the focus of an all- academic high school course load, and more has placed you all here this evening. As a 29 year teacher in the Plattsburgh City School District and a candidate for NYS Assembly, it is of utmost importance that you know that I support your efforts, have stood with you in this movement and will continue to work on behalf of the efforts to introduce and expose our children to sound educational policy and practices. Local control over education is a must and we now see what happens when those who create the system do not answer directly to or touch those who are affected by the system. You are not alone. Many stand behind you while you step forward to do the hard work others wish they could. I admire you and will continue to stand with you. Thank you for all that you have done and rest will come after our children are back on a path for true excellence.

Karen Bisso