



Sachem Central School District

Samsoet Administrative Office • 51 School Street • Lake Ronkonkoma, New York 11779

Anthony Falco, President
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Victor J. Canales
Bill Coggin
Mike Matlat
Dorothy Roberts
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Sara Wottawa

January 18, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
478 Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand:


On behalf of the Sachem Central School District's Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, we are writing to express our opposition to the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as the next U.S. Secretary of Education.

Our concerns stem from the fact that never before has someone so completely lacking qualifications for this critical position been nominated. One of the many responsibilities of the position is to serve as the lead advocate for our public education system and the students that it serves. Ms. DeVos never attended a public school nor has she served in any educational or governmental capacity. In fact, the educational resume of Ms. DeVos is focused on funding and supporting for-profit charter schools, the expansion of voucher programs, and school choice; all of which divert critical funding away from public schools. Additionally, Ms. DeVos lacks experience as a leader of higher education, an area of significance given the current student loan debt crisis. For these reasons we oppose her nomination.

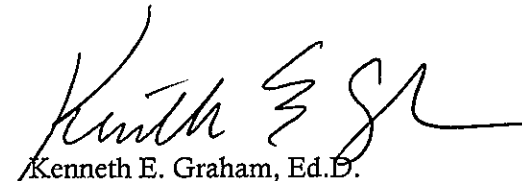
The Sachem Central School District is committed to providing opportunities for all of our students to access the highest quality academic programs, a wide range of extra and co-curricular offerings, and to meeting the individual needs of all of our nearly 13,500 students. We believe that the next U.S. Secretary of Education must support adequate federal funding for public education and maintain accountability for all schools that receive taxpayer dollars. Our concerns are reflected in the words of John Dewey in which he famously wrote: "What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all of its children. Any other ideal for our schools is narrow and unlovely; acted upon, it destroys our democracy."

We oppose the confirmation of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education, and we ask that you do the same. Thank you for your consideration in this critically important matter.

Sincerely,



Anthony Falco
Board President



Kenneth E. Graham, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools