

My name is Michael Hynes; I am the proud superintendent serving the schools for the Patchogue-Medford School District. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. On behalf of parents, my children of the Patchogue-Medford School District and my five children at home, I just want to go on the record by saying that Regent's Reform Agenda needs to cease and desist.

My recommendation and focus, to quote Ken Robinson is, "One of the roles of education is to awaken and develop the powers of creativity and instead, what we have, is a culture of standardization." So we need to stop paving the road as we drive on it, which means to suspend, stop and have a two-year moratorium until we work this whole thing out. De-couple student scores from teacher evaluations. I need the governor to advocate, to suspend all grade three through eight assessments until they are reliable and valid. And finally, get rid of the common core standards. Finally, I want to publicly go on record and say... the *Superintendent Tool Kit* is just another module to standardize "everything".

To quote the great former educational commissioner, Tom Sobol, "I suggest that you go back to the fundamentals and the bedrock of values and aspirations that called you to this profession to begin with. I suggest that you focus on what you can do to help children and young people. Assert what you know that education is just not about test scores; it is about becoming a person. That the rhetoric and regulation alone cannot produce results. That state and federal government has no monopoly on wisdom about how children learn. That teaching and learning are quintessentially human activities that succeed only when decisions are made that take local people, local relationships and other local realities into account and we need to do that today."