

January 2016

A Cover Letter to the People of New York:

My name is John Sheffield and I am a candidate for the New York State Board of Regents.

I have been encouraged by many people from many walks of life to pursue this endeavor. As an advocate for children, students, and public education in general I felt that it was my personal and professional obligation to apply for this post.

I have a lengthy employment history in the field of education. At age 52, however, it is impossible to fit all of my experience onto a single page resume. Professionally I have worked in the public school system mainly in grades six through eight with a focus on mathematics. My experience with public school students has ranged from the typical classroom setting, to inclusion situations, to special education and co-teaching, as well as small group academic intervention. I have also been employed in the juvenile justice system as a county probation officer and as a teacher of incarcerated youth. Additionally I have primary grade level experience, BOCES experience, have been employed in both day care and adult education settings, and have a decade of summer school experience as well.

My strengths have always been based in communication, understanding, and compassion. Whether it has been in adjusting a lesson on the fly, or having to find alternative means of communicating a concept or idea, I have always been able to do so in a positive manner. I have publicly addressed boards of education as well as parent and community groups and always have received positive feedback. I have produced short educational videos in which my manner of delivery and ability to speak concisely in easily understandable terms has been not only appreciated but praised. My writing skills are strong, and I admit, a point of pride with me. I have written essays, papers, and articles and have been complimented on my depth of understanding, historical perspectives, amount of supportive research, and my ability to explain things that may be considered complex in ways that are clear and easily discernible. In the district in which I work I have been told that I am one of "the best" when it comes to establishing relationships with students and their parents.

I would ask that you refer to my resume which is attached and contains more specific information. I am confident that I am not only a strong candidate, but one that you will feel that you can support as well. I look forward to serving the children and parents of New York and serving PUBLIC education.

Respectfully,

John D. Sheffield