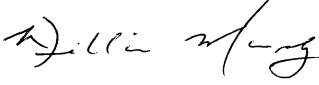





TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy 

SUBJECT: Appointment to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System Board

DATE: August 29, 2024

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents approve the appointment of a member to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System Board?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board at the September 2024 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Appointment of certain members to the 10-member board of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) Board requires approval by the Board of Regents.

Education Law §504(3) provides that:

"...A vacancy occurring during a term in the case of a member elected from among the active members of the retirement system shall be filled, until the next annual convention of delegates, by the commissioner of education..."

Background Information

Appointment under Section 504(3) of the Education Law:

In accordance with the provision of Education Law §504(3), the New York State Teacher's Retirement System (NYSTRS) forwarded the name of an individual for consideration for appointment to the Board until the next annual convention of delegates, following the resignation of Board member Elizabeth Chetney on March 17, 2024.

The NYSTRS and the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) recommend the appointment of Donald A. Little III who is an active member of the NYSTRS from the Syracuse City School District. Mr. Little meets the requirements stated in Education Law §504 and has been recommended after an extensive statewide candidate search and screening process conducted by NYSUT. Copies of letters from the NYSTRS and NYSUT recommending Mr. Little (Attachment A) are attached. Mr. Little's resume (Attachment B) is also attached.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents appoint Mr. Little to the NYS Teachers' Retirement System Board pursuant to Section 504(3) of the Education Law until the next annual convention of active members to be held in November 2024.

Timetable for Implementation

If approved, Mr. Little's term will begin on September 10, 2024.



**New York State
Teachers'
Retirement
System**

nystrs.org

Retirement Board

David P. Keefe <i>President, Hempstead</i>	L. Oliver Robinson <i>Vice President, Clifton Park</i>
Juliet C. Benaquisto <i>Schenectady</i>	Jennifer J. Longtin <i>Ballston Lake</i>
Paul J. Farfaglia <i>North Syracuse</i>	Ruth Mahoney <i>Albany</i>
Phyllis S. Harrington <i>Oceanside</i>	Nicholas Smirensky <i>Delmar</i>
Eric J. Iberger <i>Bayport-Blue Point</i>	

August 13, 2024

Honorable Betty A. Rosa
New York State Education Department Commissioner
and President of the University of the State of New York
New York State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Commissioner Rosa:

Elizabeth Chetney, one of the three active teacher members of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System Board of Trustees, has resigned from the Board effective March 17, 2024. Ms. Chetney was last elected to the Retirement Board for a three-year term commencing February 1, 2024, by the annual convention of the active members of the System held pursuant to section 505 of the Education Law, on November 6, 2023.

Subdivision 3 of section 504 of the Education Law authorizes you, as Commissioner of Education, to fill the vacancy created by Ms. Chetney's departure until the next annual convention of active members to be held in November of 2024. Subdivision 3 provides in pertinent part:

"A vacancy occurring during a term in the case of a member elected from among the active members of the retirement system shall be filled, until the next annual convention of delegates, by the commissioner of education..."

I respectfully join with New York State United Teachers in urging your appointment of Donald A. Little III, an active member of the System from the Syracuse City School District, to fill this vacancy. A copy of his resume is furnished herewith.

Please feel free to call me at 518-447-2940 if you should have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TKL', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Thomas K. Lee
Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer

cc: David Keefe, NYSTRS Board President
Melinda Person, NYSUT President

ENCLOSURE



Melinda Person
President

Jaime L. Ciffone
Executive Vice President

Ronald Gross
Second Vice President

J. Philippe Abraham
Secretary-Treasurer

August 13, 2024

Thomas Lee, Executive Director
New York State Teachers' Retirement System
10 Corporate Woods Drive
Albany, NY 12211

Dear Mr. Lee:

On Monday, August 12, 2024, the New York State United Teachers' (NYSUT) Board of Directors adopted a resolution to recommend Donald Little, Second Vice President of the Syracuse Teachers' Association, to stand for election to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) Board of Trustees, to fill the remainder of Beth Chetney's term.

This recommendation came before the board after an extensive statewide candidate search and screening process conducted by NYSUT.

Section 504 of the New York State education law allows vacancies for the NYSTRS Board of Trustees to be filled by appointment of the New York State Commissioner of Education.

If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me.

In Solidarity,

Melinda Person
President

cc: Hon. David Keefe, President
NYSTRS Board of Trustees

Nicole Capsello, President
Syracuse Teachers' Association

MP/lpc

Donald A. Little III

OBJECTIVE	To secure a position as a NYSTRS in-service teacher trustee	
EDUCATION	<p><i>Master of Art in History in American History with a secondary Global focus</i> May 2015 State University of New York College at Oswego. <i>Certificate of Advanced Study in Urban Teaching Leadership</i> December 2012 LeMoyne College. <i>Master of Science in Education; Social Studies concentration</i>, August 1994 Graduate G.P.A. 3.86. <i>Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education; Social Studies concentration</i>, May 1991 Cum laude Overall G.P.A. 3.417 G.P.A. both degrees at the State University of New York College at Oswego</p>	
RELATED EXPERIENCE	<p>Teacher, William Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Instructed World History I & II, United States History, African American Studies •Taught eleventh graders in Advanced Placement and SUPA United States History •Imparted tenth graders with knowledge of Advanced Placement World History •Supported and assisted 33 student teachers with their professional development •Elected and served as the Department Chair from 2011 to 2020 <p>MTIP Mentor Teacher, William Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supported less experienced teachers in their transition into the school and district •Developed relationships with mentees and established better institutional understanding <p>United States History Standards Setting Committee, NYS Education Department</p> <p>Adjunct Professor, State University of New York at Oswego, Syracuse, NY <i>Department of Curriculum and Instruction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Instructed students in EDU 210 – American Curriculum since 1965 <p>Twilight Summer School Teacher, Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Taught United States History and Government <p>Syracuse University Summer Institute, Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supervised and assisted students in week-long institute at Syracuse University <p>Master Teacher, Syracuse City School District, Syracuse, NY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supported new teachers in developing instructional strategies and management techniques •Mentored new teachers in district and state policies and procedures <p>Summer School Boot Camp Teacher, Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reviewed and prepared students for August United States History Regents <p>Twilight Teacher, Twilight Academy @ Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Instructed students in Global History & Geography II and US History @ Government <p>Instructional Leadership Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Facilitated meetings with United States History and Government Teachers •Engaged in discussions regarding instructional strategies and learning issues <p>Pre-Engineering Summer Academy, Nottingham High Schools, Syracuse, NY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Imparted students with knowledge of technology, history, and engineering principles •Facilitated activities for incoming ninth and tenth graders <p>Educational Specialist, NYS Education Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Trained in regents standards and testing methodology <p>AP Summer Bridge Instructor, Nottingham High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Developed historiography and analytical skills activities for impending AP courses •Prepared and organized activities to promote higher level thinking 	<p>9/99 – present</p> <p>9/23 – present</p> <p>Spring, 2023</p> <p>1/22 – present</p> <p>4/13 – 8/19</p> <p>2015 – 2019</p> <p>5/15 – 2017</p> <p>2014 – 2016</p> <p>4/13 – 6/20</p> <p>8/13 – 6/16</p> <p>Summer 2012 Summer 2013</p> <p>3/08 – present</p> <p>Summers 2007 – 2012 2013 – 2019</p>

Chief Test Administrator, NYSTCE (National Evaluation System) 2/12 – 2/16
Assistant Chief Test Administrator, NYSTCE (National Evaluation System) 5/05 – 12/11
SAT Coordinator - College Board, Nottingham High School & ITC@Syracuse Central 10/04 – present
 • Provided training and supervised a staff of proctors and security personnel
 • Enforced and assisted in testing policy and procedures, as well as test security

Summer School Teacher, Fowler, Corcoran, Henninger High Schools, Syracuse, NY Summer 2000
 • Imparted students with knowledge of Global History and Geography 10 2004 – 2010
 • Instructed eleventh & twelfth graders in United States History & Government

EDLP Teacher, Nottingham & Henninger High Schools, Syracuse, NY 9/99 – 6/13
 • Taught Global History and Geography II, US History, Economics, Government
 • Prepared students to elements of financial literacy

Long-term Substitute, Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY 12/97 – 6/98
 • Taught ninth and tenth graders in Global Studies I & II 9/95 – 12/95
 • Implemented projects and activities for Black History and Black Voices

Building Substitute, Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY 12/94 – 6/99
 • Chaperoned school events and field trips
 • Served on and assisted with building level committees

Small Group Instructor, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 9/92 – 5/94
Teacher's Assistant, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 1/94 – 5/94
 • Designed and graded quizzes for a college humanities honors course
 • Assessed students' notes to help improve the quality of their study materials

**WORK
EXPERIENCE**

Play & Musical Producer, Nottingham High School, Syracuse NY 1/98 – present
 • Coordinated the business activities of the Fall play and Spring Musical (49 to date)
 • Supervised students in costuming, tech, props, house matters, etc.
 • Trained a staff to operate the house prior to and during performances

National Honor Society Advisor, Nottingham High School, Syracuse NY 9/98 – present
 • Assisted in the coordination of service projects and initiatives
 • Worked with students on leadership development

Mock Trial Coach, Nottingham High School, Syracuse NY 12/99 – present
 • Assisted students in the examination of the elements of the annual case
 • Evaluated the language and tone of the questions and arguments of the lawyers with our legal advisors

Scoreboard Operator, Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY 9/99 – present
Sports Announcer, Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY 9/99 – present
Ticket seller, Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY 9/99 – 2/01
Public Speaking Director, Upward Bound, LeMoyne College 2004, 2007

Assistant Hall Director, Funnelle Hall, SUNY Oswego 8/92 – 5/94
Resident Assistant (RA), Hart Hall, SUNY Oswego 8/91 – 5/92
 • Harmonized operations of a 400-person residence hall with the director

Building Manager, Hewitt Union, SUNY Oswego 10/90 – 5/91
 • Supervised student personnel working toward the Union's mission and programs

Sports Editor, *The Oswegonian* (student newspaper), SUNY Oswego 1/88 – 12/90

**TEACHING
INSTITUTES**

Fulbright Hays Seminar Abroad, Japan Summer, 2024
 • Immersed in the cultural and historic influence of Japan and its impact on the United State
 • Investigated the impact of the United States on Japan (most notably the Oswego Movement)
 • Developed curriculum to expand Japanese presence in lessons regarding US history instruction

NEH Landmarks Institute, Indianapolis (Indiana) Summer, 2023
 • Examined the cultural influence of the automobile on American Society

NEH Landmarks Institute , Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania)	Summer, 2022
•Examined the 19 th century Pittsburgh •Examined the events of the Homestead Strike	
Ashbrook Colloquium – Jefferson & the American Founding , Fort Ticonderoga (NY)	Summer, 2022
•Examined primary sources related to Jefferson from 1753 – 1826 •Toured Fort Ticonderoga and attended various interpretation events	
NEH Landmarks Institute , Vermont (Virtually)	Summer, 2021
•Evaluated Ethan Allen & the Green Mountain Boys influence on American Independence	
Gilder Lehrman Summer Seminars – Frederick Douglass (Dr. David Blight)	Summer, 2020
•Evaluated the words of Douglass and their impact on the mid and late 19 th Century	
Gilder Lehrman Summer Seminars – The World at War (Dr. Michael Neiberg)	Summer, 2020
•Appraised American Foreign Policy interest in a change world from 1914 to 1945	
Case Method Institute for Education & Democracy , Boston (Massachusetts)	Summer, 2020
•Studied case-based teaching developed by David Moss (Harvard Business College)	
NEH Landmarks Institute , Columbus (Ohio)	Summer, 2017
•Assessed the mound building achievements of Hopewell Civilization	
NEH Landmarks Institute , Columbus (Ohio)	Summer, 2016
•Evaluated the social, economic, and political issues surrounding the temperance efforts	
Weekend Colloquium of LBJ and Vietnam , Austin (Texas)	Spring, 2016
•Examined primary sources related to Johnson and the Vietnam War	
NEH Landmarks Institute , Kansas City (Missouri)	Summer, 2014
•Evaluated the social, economic, and political issues of antebellum Missouri	
FPRI Institute, University of Pennsylvania	Fall, 2013
•Focused on the Creation of Liberal Democracy	
Eisenhower Academy, Gettysburg College	Summer, 2013
•Assessed the life and work of Dwight D. Eisenhower	
TAH: Teacher Fellowship Program , OCM BOCES/SUNY Cortland	10/12 – 6/13
•Developed active research project to address aspects of history instruction •Participated in professional conversations on historiography and historical thinking	
Gilder Lehrman Summer Institute , Amherst (Massachusetts)	Summer, 2011
•Assessed the life and work of John and Abigail Adams with Joseph Ellis	
TAH: Master/Mentor Teacher , OCM BOCES/SUNY Cortland	10/10 – 6/13
•Mentored and supported teachers with grant work and project planning •Led book talk on Betsy Ross and the Making of America & American Insurgents, American Patriots	
NEH Landmarks Institute , Concord (Massachusetts)	Summer, 2010
•Evaluated the social, economic, and political issues of colonial New England	
George Washington Teachers , Mount Vernon (Virginia)	Summer, 2009
•Assessed the life and work of George Washington	
TAH: The American Dream , OCM BOCES	10/08 – 7/10
•Evaluated new research on the Gilded/Progressive Eras and Post WWII (Civil Rights) •Incorporated local historical research (Assumption parish) with technology (IMovie) •Developed Document-Based Question on the works of Tracy Sugarman	
National Consortium for Teaching about Asia , LeMoyne College & Five Colleges	2004 – 2005
DISTRICT COMMITTEES	
SCSD Global History and Geography Mini-Task Force	Spring 2017
SCSD Delegate to State NYSTRS Convention	9/14 – present

United States History 11 Curriculum Writing Team (Chief Editor)	9/13-7/14
Social Studies Department Chair Committee meetings	2012 – 2020
Strategic Compensation Task Force	2011 – 2012
Global 9 Textbook Adoption Committee	2008
East Side Reconfiguration Committee	5/04 – 8/06
Global 9 Exam Writing Team	2004, 2007
High School Task Force	2/03 – 8/03
Economics/Government curriculum writing committee	1/03 – 10/03
Advanced Placement US History textbook adoption committee	12/02 – 8/03
Economics/Government textbook adoption committee	12/02 – 8/03
Academic Intervention Services Committee	2000, 02, 04

**SCHOOL
COMMITTEES**

Nottingham Academic Leadership Team	2/14 – 6/18
FACES Board of Directors	7/13 – present
FACES Parliamentarian	1/17 – present
Nottingham School Leadership Team	2/08 – 6/24
Nottingham PBIS (Character Ed) Committee	9/05 – 12/07
School AP World and US Milestones Committee	Summer 2005
Labor Management Team/Building Committee	9/04 – 6/24
Nottingham Career Center Curriculum Committee	9/04 – 6/06
Co-coordinator, Freshmen Academy	2004 – 2008
Graduation Committee	2004 – 2011
School Improvement Team	12/02 – 12/07
Faculty Representative, PTSO Planning and Steering Committee	9/99 – 6/09
Friends of the Arts at Nottingham School	1/97 – 6/06
Active participant to Nottingham’s PTSO/FACES	9/96 – present

**UNION
ACTIVITIES**

Second Vice President/STA Executive Board	9/21 – present
Many Threads, One Fabric Facilitators Training	8/23
Vice Chair – NYSUT Pension & Retirement Committee	1/22 – present
STA Scholarship Committee	5/22 – present
Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) Panel	9/21 – 6/24
Greater Syracuse Labor Council Delegate	8/21 – present
STA Finance Committee	3/21 – present
STA Retirement Presenter	2/21 – present
STA Vote-Cope Committee	Winter 2021
NYSUT Social Studies State Committee (Co-Chairperson through fall 2023)	9/20 – present
AFT National Convention (virtual)	July 2020
Second Vice President/STA Executive Board	4/12 – 6/19
NYSUT Retirement and Pension State Committee	9/17 – present
STA Local Action Project Team	7/17 – 6/19
STA Parliamentarian	4/17 – 6/19
STA Building Trustee	7/16 – present
STA Teachers Education Trustee	7/16 – present
Presenter for New Teacher Orientation	8/12 – 6/19
STA Unit 1 Director/STA Executive Board	1/11 – 4/12
Joseph Schramm Grant Committee Member (Chairperson since 1/17)	10/10 – present
STA Bylaws Committee Member (Chairperson since 9/14)	9/04 – present
STA Election Committee Member	Fall 2007
NYSUT State Convention	2006 – present
STA Chief Building Representative & Building Committee (LMT) Member	9/04 – 6/24
NYSUT/AFT Delegate	9/04 – present
School’s Student Behavior Committee, Chairperson (2002 & 2013)	2002, 04, 07, 13
NYSUT Leadership Conference, Cornell	8/03 & 1/04
STA Building Representative	9/02 – 6/04
Sweat Shop Free Schools Campaign	10/03 – 9/05

**ACTIVITIES &
ORGANIZATIONS**

CNYCSS Board of Directors	8/23 - present
NYSSED committee for US History & Government Regents Goal Setting	2023
SUNY Oswego Community of Practice	9/21 – 5/22
SUNY Oswego Community of Practice	9/21 – 5/22
NYSSED workgroup on Manual for Implementing the Seal to Civic Readiness	2/21 – 6/21
NYS CSS Curriculum & Assessment Committee	12/20 – 6/23

SUNY Oswego Residency Program Advisory Committee	12/19 – 6/22
Presenter on Edward Austin Sheldon for various SUNY Oswego events	6/18 – present
SUNY Oswego reunion committee	6/16 – present
Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society – Graduate Level)	4/15 – present
Onondaga Historical Association (life member)	6/12 – present
National Council for History Education	10/08 – present
Performer in Fall production of <i>Speak</i> (Mr. Neck)	Fall 2007
District Charitable Contribution Campaign Representative	2005 – 2022
National Council of the Social Studies	9/03 – 6/20
Coordinator of Freshmen Class Elections	9/01 – 6/04
Central New York Council of the Social Studies	9/97 – present
New York State Council of the Social Studies	9/97 – present
Proctor, New York State Teacher’s Certification Exam (NES)	6/96 – 2/05
Co-Advisor, Nottingham’s DECA chapter	2/96 – 6/99
Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership Honor Society)	5/95 – present
Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society)	3/92 – present
Kappa Delta Pi (Education Honor Society)	12/89 – present
Alpha Phi Omega (National Coed Service Fraternity)	12/89 – present

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

•Discipline with Dignity •Authentic Assessment •ITI - Integrated Thematic Instruction
 •Media & Democracy Institute •Brain Compatible Instruction •APUSH workshops •Teaching Personal & Social Responsibility •Cooperative Learning •A.P. World History workshop •A.P. European History
 •NYSCSS Annual Conference •S.U.P.A. Public Affairs Conference •ER & D In-Service •Mentoring In-Service •Native Voices •Facilitation Skills In-Service •Community of Caring In-Services & workshops
 •Peer Coaching •National ER & D Training: Instructional Strategies That Work •Pre-AP Visual Aids Analysis •RTI training •NYS Regents Analysis and Training •Document Camera Training •We the People Training •SLT training •APUSH refresher training •Labor History In-service •Danielson Training
 •Teachscape Training •Understanding by Design •Core Curriculum Orientation •Individual Learning Teams (Pearson) •S.U.P.A. American History Training •Theodore Roosevelt Association Annual Meeting (How the World Hasn’t Changed in a Hundred Years) •C3 Frameworks Training (with Kathy Swan) •One Trusted Adult•

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

31 Teachers, 31 Days Y94 FM – SCS D Recognition, 2012
 Senior Class Recognition for Dedicated Service: 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2010.
 Onondaga County Teachers Association’s Emerging Leader Award, 2005
 Award of Excellence, Parents for Public Schools, 2004
 Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers: 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006.
 Nottingham Teacher Recognition Award, 2000
 Alpha Phi Omega’s Chapter Leadership Award named after me (given each semester), beginning in 1995
 Alpha Phi Omega’s Chapter Distinguished Service Key, awarded 1993
 SUNY Oswego’s Nominee for the James Madison Memorial Fellowship, 1992
 Outstanding College Students of America, 1989, 1990
 Onondaga County Retired Teachers’ Association Scholarship, 1987

REFERENCES

Nicole Capsello President of the Syracuse Teachers Association (STA) & NYSUT At-Large Director [REDACTED]	William Magnarelli Second Vice President of the STA [REDACTED]
Meg Root Former President of the STA & Unit 1 Director [REDACTED]	
Rich Rogers Treasurer of the STA [REDACTED]	