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Building a National Movement for the Public Schools ALL Our Students Deserve with the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools, Now More Important than Ever

Whereas, the proposed policies of the incoming administration pose an unprecedented threat to public education, immigrants, the right of workers, and many other groups; and

Whereas the nomination of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education represents an effort to dismantle our public school system; and

Whereas, NYSUT has waged a strong fight back against efforts to privatize public education and have achieved important victories in recent years; and

Whereas, the last five years has seen other major social movements, including the Fight for 15 and Black Lives, impact the national debate and realize major achievements for racial and economic justice; and

Whereas, NYSUT has highlighted the need to work with community as a major priority; and

Whereas, one of NYSUT's highest priorities is member engagement and one of the strongest pathways is with the community; and

Whereas, Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS) was formed out of these local coalitions, with AFT playing an important leadership role, and is now a national community-union alliance for educational justice; and

Whereas, organizations and individuals in AROS have coalesced around "Principles That Unite Us", which NYSUT has endorsed and which include:

- Full-funding and support for neighborhood-based community schools: don't close or privatize them
- More teaching, less testing
- Safe schools, positive discipline policies with proper training
- Quality, affordable or free public education from early childhood through college, including for undocumented students
- A living wage that lifts people out of poverty

Whereas, AROS as a national alliance has initiated a national campaign for The Public Schools ALL Our Students Deserve and has organized three nationally coordinated Walk-ins that have involved 300 cities, several thousand schools and more than 100,000 people around the issues of full funding and support for community schools, more teaching, less testing, and holding all schools that are publicly funded to the same high standards; and

Whereas, AROS lifts local fights into the national spotlight by coordinating actions in solidarity; and

Whereas, in each successive day of action, there have been more cities, more organizations, more local unions and more people engaged; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that NYSUT will support the AROS National Day of Action on January 19 to Protect Our Schools, Communities and Students and encourage its locals to participate in the mobilization and beyond, which could include participating in other national mobilizations, joining the national committee to help plan strategy, passing local resolutions in support of the AROS national campaign, and organizing local community-union coalitions; and be it further

Resolved that NYSUT will join with AROS to lead the resistance to efforts to attack public education, immigrants, worker rights, and lift up our positive vision to protect and improve public education; and be it further

Resolved, that NYSUT along with its members, parents, students and community members will mobilize as part of AROS January 19, 2017 day of action.