

A TOWN HALL FORUM

HIGH-STAKES TESTING IN NEW JERSEY:

UNDERSTANDING IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR LEARNERS

On Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 7:00 PM, the Bloomfield Board of Education will be hosting a Town Hall Forum to discuss New Jersey's mandates for new high-stakes tests. The forum will take place at the Bloomfield High School Media Center, 160 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ. Among other topics, the panelists will weigh in on questions such as the validity and usefulness of the high stakes tests; how they impact schools, students and teaching; do they inform teaching; how do high-stakes tests impact creativity; and how these tests may perpetuate false ideas of intelligence.

6:30 PM

Refreshments and Registration

7:00 PM

Panel Presentation

- I. *Program – Introduction & Overview:*
 - Co-Moderator, **Nicholas J. Dotoli**, Ed.M., Esq., Interim Superintendent of Schools
 - Co-Moderator, **Daniel A. Anderson**, Bloomfield Board of Education Member
- II. *An Education Advocate's Perspective:*
 - **Mr. Stan Karp** taught high school English and journalism for 30 years. He is currently Director of the Secondary Reform Project for New Jersey's Education Law Center, one of the nation's most successful advocacy groups supporting the right of public school children to equitable, high quality education.
- III. *A Parent's Perspective:*
 - **Ms. Lisa Rodgers** is an advocate for public schools. As a mother of two school-aged children, Lisa continues to work tirelessly to push for charter school and high stakes testing reform. She was instrumental in organizing the community to express its opinions in having a charter school enter its school district
- IV. *A Community Activist's Perspective on how we fight back - legislative and community based actions:*
 - **Dr. Deborah Cornavaca** is currently an Associate Director in Government Relations NJEA. Deborah has a Ph.D. in anthropological archaeology specializing in culture contact. She currently serves as President of the East Brunswick High School PTSA and President of the East Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees
- V. *Question and Answer Session.*

Co-Moderators: Daniel A. Anderson, a current Bloomfield Board of Education member, serves as chair of the personnel subcommittee. He served as a fine arts teacher in Bloomfield for 26 years and holds a dual Master's degree in performing arts and musicology. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University. Nicholas J. Dotoli, Ed.M., Esq., serves as Interim Superintendent of Schools in Bloomfield. A ten year veteran of the NJ Department of Education, Mr. Dotoli brings his perspective as a teacher, school law attorney and central office director. Nicholas obtained his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan, his Ed.M. from Harvard and J.D. from Rutgers Law School. He is licensed to practice law in NJ and NY and holds a NJ School Administrator Certification.

Please direct your R.S.V.P. to Nicholas J. Dotoli, Ed.M., Esq., Interim Superintendent of Schools: ndotoli@bloomfield.k12.nj.us