



educational association box 371 mill neck new york 11765

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY MILL NECK MANOR EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
ON FUNDING CRISIS FACING ECC PROGRAM

"We, the nearly 100 educators at Mill Neck Manor's School for the Deaf and Early Childhood Center, do heroic work on behalf of students with special communications needs. We are the caring, dedicated professionals who open the doors of opportunity for these students, so they have the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to succeed in today's world.

Like other professionals, we want to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect on the job. Unfortunately, CEO Michael Killian has other ideas. We are deeply disappointed that he has resorted to misinformation, finger-pointing and strong-arm tactics instead of working collaboratively, with us, toward a solution that is fair to educators and fair to the organization.

Let's be clear: Teachers and their union are not the enemies. Our base salaries have risen by just 1 percent since 2009-10. We have accepted freezes to our base salaries in five of the last six years in order to protect essential programs and ensure that our students' unique needs are met.

We share Mr. Killian's funding concerns about the Early Childhood Center. However, instead of unfairly blaming us and trying to resolve funding issues on our backs, he should use his bully pulpit to seek more tuition aid from Nassau County, which has been essentially flat since 2014 while the school's administrative costs have increased. Or, better yet, he can join us on our upcoming lobbying trip to Albany, where we will be pressing our elected leaders to deliver increased state support for Mill Neck Manor.

Mr. Killian must remember that he can't put Mill Neck Manor students and their families first at the same time he's putting Mill Neck Manor teachers last."

Diane Cusker and Rebecca Pilson
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