



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

106 Washington Avenue
Plainview, New York 11803
www.pobschools.org

We, the members of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Board of Education, wish to express our firm opposition to the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as the U.S. Secretary of Education. Our concerns include:

- 1) **Lack of appropriate qualifications.** Ms. DeVos has never worked in a public school, has never attended a public school, and has never sent her children to a public school. With the vast majority of the nation's students enrolled in public schools, we believe it is vitally important that the Secretary truly understand the needs and challenges of those who attend and work in the public school system.
- 2) **Insufficient knowledge.** During her confirmation hearing, Ms. DeVos demonstrated a concerning lack of insight regarding basic education issues and laws, specifically those designed to protect our most vulnerable students. She also has no experience in higher education, and limited understanding of the growing problem of student debt.
- 3) **Support for privatization.** We strongly believe that charter schools and voucher programs are damaging to public schools, as they drain the vital resources needed to sustain programs that ensure a rich and well-rounded education. Ms. DeVos has long demonstrated support for for-profit education models, and has referred to the public school system as a "dead-end".¹
- 4) **Poor track record.** After aggressive charter school growth championed by Ms. DeVos, Michigan students are no better off today. In spite of nearly two decades of her advocacy and influence, Michigan still ranks near the bottom in 4th and 8th grade reading and math on certain standardized tests, with the state's charter schools scoring worse than their public school counterparts.²

The Secretary of Education must be committed to providing adequate Federal funding for public schools, and to ensuring that charters or any other schools that receive Federal monies be held to the same accountability standards that public schools face. The for-profit school choice system that Ms. DeVos envisions will be detrimental to public school students across the country. We oppose Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education, and encourage you to vote no on her confirmation.

Sincerely,

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Board of Education
Debbie Bernstein, President
Ginger Lieberman, Vice President
Jodi Campagna, Trustee
Seth Greenberg, Trustee
Ronelle Hershkowitz, Trustee
Lauren Sackstein, Trustee
Susan Stewart, Trustee

¹ Source: "To Trump's Education Pick, the U.S. Public School System is a 'Dead End'", Valerie Strauss. Washington Post, December 21, 2016.

² Source: "DeVos' Michigan School Experiment Gets Poor Grades", Caitlin Emma, Benjamin Wermund, and Kimberly Hefling. Politico.com, December, 2016.

