



SPRING VALLEY BRANCH
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED
PEOPLE
P.O. BOX 156
SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK 10977
TEL. (845)362-6227

September 9, 2022

Dr. Betty Rosa, Commissioner
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Commissioner Rosa,

I am writing to acknowledge the efforts of Bruce Singer and Mary Fox Alter, NY State-appointed monitors to the East Ramapo Central School District. In particular, in 2021-22 with legislation to expand the authority of the 'monitors' bill,¹ they have managed to address some of the district's excessive costs, inefficiencies and dysfunctions regarding its transportation program.

The 2020-21 expansion of the monitors' authority has led to increased oversight of the multi-million -dollar transportation program including restructuring routes and schedules for both private and public-school students, developing efficient student transportation registration procedures, enhancing parent/guardian—school district communication channels and assuming a more substantial role in negotiating school bus contracts. One result has been a \$9 million reduction of costs projected for the 2022-23 transportation budget.

Monitors were finally able to implement the State Education Department's requirement for the district to conform to an April 1 school bus registration deadline for private school students, resulting in considerable savings.¹

While we recognize and applaud this gain, we remain extremely concerned about the district's critical need for governance reform. We hope you agree that having concrete evidence of the benefits of the monitors' increased authority affirms and underscores what real, substantive governance reform could do. Only with such bold action will the district be able to restore its status and once again fulfill its civic responsibility to students, families, and the community.

¹<https://www.lohud.com/story/news/education/2022/09/06/east-ramapo-busing-deadline-stalls-some-private-school-student-rides/65465767007/>

We remain grateful to Commissioner Rosa and Assistant Commissioner Giamartino for the their continued support.

Sincerely yours,

Willie J. Trotman

Wille J. Trotman

CC: Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, President, NAACP, New York State Conference
Jason Harmon, Deputy Commissioner
Dr. Ray Giamartino, Assistant Commissioner
Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski
Assemblyman Michael Lawler
Senator Elijah Reichlin Melnick
Monitor Bruce Singer
Monitor Mary Fox Alter