

“IN THIS ERA OF ACCOUNTABILITY, I’D GIVE THEM AN A, WOULDN’T YOU?”

RANDI WEINGARTEN

President, United Federation of Teachers,
New York, New York, and
Board Member, Council for Unity, Inc.

For over 20 years, the United Federation of Teachers has supported Council for Unity and integrated its programs throughout New York City schools. Randi Weingarten, president of UFT since 1998, actively supports Council – both as a member of Council’s Board and as an advocate for the value of Council’s work. Her support was evident recently at her 50th Birthday Party Roast hosted by UFT. She used this personal celebration to help raise awareness and funding for three key organizations near and dear to her, UFT’s Union and students these organizations serve – Council for Unity, Justice Resource Center and UFT’s Elementary and Secondary Charter Schools.

In an interview with Randi, she shared these thoughts - “For over 30 years Council has been on the frontlines combating gang violence and other conflicts in schools and surrounding communities. They have been forging partnerships with parents and providing mentoring and other services to more than 100,000 kids. When program results are tallied, 96% of students who participate in Council go to college, 84% show improved attendance, 70% of participating principals in their program report a dramatic decrease of crime in their schools – AND – 100% of kids report Council programs had “a really positive impact on their lives. In this era of accountability, I’d give them an A, wouldn’t you?”

Since 1998, RANDI WEINGARTEN has been president of the United Federation of Teachers, representing more than 150,000 in-service and retired educators in the New York City public school system. She is also a vice-president of the 1.2-million member American Federation of Teachers and a board member of New York State United Teachers.

She heads the Municipal Labor Committee, an umbrella organization for some 100 city employee unions that negotiates benefits on behalf of the unions’ 365,000 members, and is a vice-president of the New York City Central Labor Council of the AFL-CIO.

As a teacher of history at Clara Barton High School in Crown Heights, Brooklyn (1991-1997), Weingarten helped her students win several state and national awards.

From 1986 to 1998, Weingarten served as counsel to UFT President Sandra Feldman, taking a lead role in contract negotiations and in lawsuits in which the union fought for adequate school funding and building conditions.

Weingarten holds degrees from Cornell University and the Cardozo School of Law. She worked as a lawyer for the New York firm of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan (1983-1986). Born in 1957, Weingarten is a resident of Manhattan.