

Leave elections to voters, not unions

All Briarcliff residents should be outraged by the fact that the Briarcliff teachers' union has endorsed two candidates — Sal Maglietta and Mike Valenti — in the upcoming school board election. There are many reasons why this is highly objectionable.

First, this has never happened before and one must ask why it is happening now. The teachers' contract expires this June and the union is currently negotiating with the school board. Members of the incoming board will undoubtedly be involved in these negotiations. How could these men, if elected, represent the best interests of the community when they are already beholden to the teachers' union? Furthermore, Maglietta and Valenti met with the teachers in a meeting which was not open to the public. This indicates, at best, monumentally poor judgment on their part. The voters cannot know what was implied, said or promised. Second, the Briarcliff teachers, most of whom do not live in Briarcliff and pay the high taxes we pay, have no business inserting themselves into this election. Their action is highly unprofessional. They should focus on teaching and leave local elections to the residents.

I hope that Briarcliff voters will express their disgust at this sordid and transparent maneuver by rejecting the candidacies of Maglietta and Valenti and casting their votes for two of the other candidates — Rosella Ranno, Lisa Jenner or Krishnan Chittur. This is the only way to ensure that negotiations are not compromised and this contemptible action is not repeated in the future.

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