

WHY WE HAVEN'T CONSIDERED A SALARY FREEZE AS PUSHED BY THE GOVERNOR

From the Bully's Pulpit 4

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HERE ARE SOME FACTS:



- ▶ The District has never raised the issue of a wage freeze.
- ▶ In Paterson, a wage freeze by P.E.A. members would yield \$7.02 million dollars.
- ▶ The total budget shortfall in Paterson is \$80 million.
- ▶ A wage freeze might save 110 jobs, leaving 675 positions vacant; people out of work.
- ▶ Most school systems are in the same situation. The money gained from a freeze will not prevent reductions-in-force.
- ▶ **Under the law, money saved through a reduction-in-force (RIF) does not have to be used to rehire cut staff. The school system could use the money for anything, including replacing surplus they were forced to use in this year's budget by the Governor.**

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- ▶ Additionally, there is nothing that would require Christie to observe any agreement reached to bring staff members back. He could renege on this just as he has with other "promises".
- ▶ Since the RIF lists provided to us continue to be in a state of confusion, there is no guarantee that the "right" people, those who have seniority, would be notified and returned.
- ▶ The District does not as yet know the extent of the retirees or those who might leave the District. These "vacancies" will help to determine who is brought back.