

## Teachers union calls for reversal of layoffs

Stamford eliminates jobs of 5 educators, reassigns dozens of other staff

By **Ignacio Laguarda**  
STAFF WRITER

STAMFORD — The local and state teacher unions are calling on Stamford Public Schools to reverse a recent decision to lay off five educators and reassign roughly 30 employees.

“We didn’t see it coming,” said John Corcoran, president of the Stamford Education Association teachers union, during a press conference held by the Connecticut Education Association union on Friday afternoon. Corcoran described the

news of the layoffs and reassignments as “a punch from Tyson in the gut,” referring to legendary boxer Mike Tyson.

Joslyn DeLancey, the vice president of the Connecticut Education Association and a Stamford resident, claimed that

many of the transfers in Stamford are placing teachers in positions where they have little-to-no experience.

“Many of these teachers are being transferred to positions within their certification that they have no **Layoffs continues on A7**



Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

**Stamford Public Schools recently laid off five educators and reassigned almost 30 other teachers to new positions.**

## Darien crowned kings of lacrosse



JIM SHANNON/HEARST CONNECTICUT MEDIA

Darien coach Ric Beardsley, above, takes a selfie with his team following their 10-9 win over New Canaan in the CIAC Class LL boys lacrosse championship on Sunday at Fairfield University. At left, Darien’s Bruce Hopkins (10) fires a shot on goal. The victory marked the Blue Wave’s first CIAC title since 2019 after appearing in their third straight final. **Story, B1.**

## Troops on active duty get tax break

By **Paul Hughes**  
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Connecticut National Guard will be able to claim a deduction on the state income tax for pay they receive while called up for active duty under a new state law taking effect July 1.

The president or governor may order the National Guard into active service when necessary or in time of war, invasion, rebellion, riot, disaster or more. When that happens, National Guard members receive active duty pay for the duration.

The same new law also provides an income tax deduction for compensation for an honor guard detail at a veteran’s funeral. Under existing law, a veteran is entitled to an honor guard detail at their funeral if they served in wartime, served in the National Guard for more than 20 years or died while serving as a National Guard member.

The law makes these two deductions applicable to the 2026 tax year, and eligible National Guard and honor guard detail members will be able to claim the deductions on their 2026 tax returns.

The legislature’s budget office estimated the two deductions will result in the loss of approximately \$65,000 a year in state revenue, with a loss of \$25,000 in revenue due to the honor guard deduction and a loss of \$40,000 due to the active duty pay deduction.

Another provision in the law taking effect July 1 aims to expedite enrollment in the Birth-to-Three Program for children of parents serving in armed forces relocating to Connecticut. The state-funded early intervention program provides supports for families with children under age 3 who have significant developmental delays or qualifying medical conditions.

The new law requires state officials to take steps to provide a minimally disruptive transition for **Tax break continues on A7**

## Himes at center of standoff over Trump appointee, spy powers



Tom Williams/CQ-Roll Call, Inc.

**Rep. Jim Himes, D-Conn., is the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee.**

Hours before President Donald Trump side-stepped his controversial June 4 appointment of a 38-year-old housing official named Bill Pulte as acting director of National Intelligence, U.S. Rep Jim Himes predicted Trump would abandon the “catastrophic” move.

That was on Thursday, as the Connecticut 4th District Democrat was leading the charge against Pulte, who has exactly zero experience in national security.

Moreover, Pulte, the heir to a Georgia-based home building empire, has used his post heading a federal housing finance



**Dan Haar**

COMMENTARY

agency to go after Trump’s political enemies – attacks that Himes, the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, told me were probably illegal.

Pulte’s office did not return my email seeking a comment from

him. White House spokesman Davis Ingle emailed a statement late Friday hailing Trump’s “record successes for the American people.”

“Bill Pulte is a great selection and he will do a phenomenal job,” Ingle wrote.

No cabinet-level appointment is the place to play political games with appointees who lack the chops needed for the

job. But Director of National Intelligence, the president’s top adviser on terrorism and spy-craft, who coordinates some 18 global security agencies, not least the CIA? That was too much even for some high-profile Republicans, who joined Democrats in rebuking Trump over the move.

The result: Congress failed to extend a crucial U.S. anti-terrorist spying authority, which expired as Friday became Saturday. That authority, known as Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), remains in a state of flux; it’s still in force with “judicial certification” but is now subject to legal challenges that could weaken the nation’s ability to

**Haar continues on A7**

