

Lupardo-Kavanagh bill would expand press freedoms for student journalists



Syracuse University's Tully Center for Free Speech and the Empire State School Press Association recently hosted a webinar in recognition of Student Press Freedom Day.

The event centered around the [Student Free Speech Act](#) and was headed by the bill's co-sponsors — Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo and Sen. Brian Kavanagh.

The bill would allow student journalists to cover, report and publish news without fear of censorship.

Specifically, the legislation would extend and protect freedom of speech and the press in school-sponsored newspapers by allowing for more autonomy of student journalists over the content of their publications.

This bill would expand freedom of speech and the press by giving final editorial control to student journalists at public and charter high schools, while at the same time continuing long standing ethical standards which will encourage responsible journalism. This bill contains oversight protections.

The student journalist free speech movement has been building in momentum in recent years, with more than a dozen states passing free speech protections for student journalists.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in [Hazelwood](#) v. Kuhlmeier that federal law gives schools broad powers to censor student journalists if they have pedagogical concerns. However, the “concerns” that schools can use to censor student newspapers were not specifically defined, allowing schools to censor students for legitimate journalistic inquiries and publications.

Keeping the Ball Rolling



FHC has been waiting in anticipation to find out who will be head principal **Dr. Sonny Arnel's** successor ever since he announced his plans to retire at the end of the 21-22 school year. The interviewing process has been met with bumps in the road causing delays in a final decision. However, the school must continue on as Dr. Arnel takes leave in the coming year. This morning **Dr. Suzanne Leake** was announced to be taking the role of FHC's interim principal.

Dr. Leake is currently building principal at Bryan Middle School and has been for the past five years. She was a former assistant principal in both the **Hazelwood district** and the Zumwalt district at the high school level. Dr. Arnel has worked with her for as long as she's worked in the district and is confident her experience will allow her to step into her new position with ease.

"[Dr. Leake] has great experience [knowing what] a high level, high functioning high school is, how it performs and what [its] students need," Dr. Arnel said. "[Dr. Leake has] tons of experience leading the faculty, working and engaging with families, and taking care of students."