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Feature update! Browser-side lookups - highlight text and search it on Google!

From: **JAYE MAXX ALEXANDER <JAYEALEXANDER@AOL.COM>**
Reply To: JAYEALEXANDER@GMAIL.COM
To: <sjohnston@tueforumclt.org>
Subject: **Capitol Commentary, Aug. 9, 2013**
Date: Tue, 13 Aug 2013 09:44:26 -0400

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Great Morning:

I want to thank you for taking the courageous step to include this information in the newsletter. I just wanted a fair and balanced amount of information given to the community. We need seats at both tables, and we should never be taken for granted or written off by any segment of the politicians in this city county and state ..

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Fear of Failure is followed by the Panic of Success.

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From: Rep. Ruth Samuelson [mailto:Rep._Ruth_Samuelson@mail.vresp.com]
Sent: Friday, August 09, 2013 1:42 PM
To: jayealexander@aol.com
Subject: Capitol Commentary, Aug. 9, 2013



Capitol Commentary

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(919) 715-3009 Ruth.Samuelson@ncleg.net



August 9, 2013
Raleigh, NC

Legislative Update

Summarizing the final couple of weeks of the legislative session in a concise fashion is difficult. If you subscribe to the Charlotte Business Journal you can look for my column "Legislative recap" or see it as well in the South Charlotte Weekly. Once they have links to the article published on their websites, you will be able to see the article online.

Additionally, I have a separate constituent website dedicated specifically to news from the legislature " nchouse104.com " that provides information on a variety of issues from the 2013 legislative session. And, as always, you can still find news on my campaign website " www.ruthsamuelson.com " where, I just posted a recent family photo! (Yes, that is a second grandson on the way!)

*Below is one of the articles from my constituent legislative website mentioned above " **State Education Spending: the facts***

We™ve all heard the dire predictions about the Republican-passed budget: "They™re going to *decimate* the whole public education system in this state!" and "This proposed budget will set back this state 25 years!" and "Cuts near this magnitude will dramatically eviscerate the ability of this state to provide a constitutionally-sound education to all of the students of our state!"

Do those claims sound familiar? They should " they™re from over two years

ago. On February 24, 2011, Democrat representatives Mickey Micnaux, Rick Glazier, and Ray Rapp all clucked that under the Republican budget the sky was falling. Former Governor Perdue, for her part, warned that 20,000 teachers would be fired, class size would double, and the Republican budget would â€œresult in generational damageâ€ to North Carolinaâ€™s public schools.

But none of it happened.

Not only were all our teaching positions fully funded, but according to the Department of Public Instructionâ€™s [own figures](#), North Carolinaâ€™s public schools actually *added* 3,198 state-funded education jobs this school year â€” and 7,811 total teaching jobs since Republicans have held the majority in the General Assembly. And significant education reforms enacted over the last two years have already begun bearing fruit: last year, North Carolinaâ€™s high school graduation rate surpassed 80 percent â€” a first in the stateâ€™s history and a 12-point jump from six years ago.

Itâ€™s shameful how the hyper-partisan teachers union â€” the largest and most organized group of paid lobbyists in the state â€” and their mouthpieces in the media continue to scare hard-working teachers and parents with wild claims that never seem to materialize. Letâ€™s cut through the wild rhetoric and look at the facts.

As always, please feel free let me know what you think by emailing me at ruths@ncleg.net or samuelsonla@ncleg.net, or calling me at my legislative office at (919) 715-3009.

Sincerely,

Ruth

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