

Gov. Jim Justice notes to Senate Republican and Democrat Caucuses – Sunday, June 2, 2019

I am not a politician; I feel like I am the people's governor.

Being here today is bad, wasting taxpayer money and the sky is blue.

From the galleries – if they end up with a 5% pay raise, they may waste a month of it today.

Primary issues are seniority, charters, and ban on extracurricular activities during a work stoppage.

I'm not going to comment on seniority and charters.

On the extracurricular activities provision, it's no good. Our students are at risk of a bad injury by skipping practices/games.

Why can't we celebrate the good?

- Free college
- Education reform that's already been done:
 - o Got rid of A-F, testing.
 - o Local control.
 - o Mandatory Computer Science instruction.
- Social security tax exemption
- Tourism booming
- State Park improvements
- Coal miners back to work
- State employees biggest pay raise ever last two years
- Roads to Prosperity, massive secondary road repair
- Restored integrity of our supreme Court
- Veterans retirement exemption
- \$8 E-ZPass
- Cut regulations
- Cut Taxes
- Significantly increased Communities In Schools Program
- Major broadband expansion
- Initiated Jim's Dream along with additional attack on drug crisis
- Significant improvements to corrections and State Police

"It's the economy stupid" – political strategist

Our economy is booming, 4.2% unemployment. 15-20k great jobs that can't be filled. Surplus after surplus.

Considering all the above, I don't know how we could have done much better...

Also attendance at our education forums was low. Bottom line – people think our education system is not all that bad.

What they are focused on is the economy, roads, and drugs.