



MCSBA members at NYSSBA Convention



ABOVE LEFT: Katherine Czarnecki, Gary Bracken, Kevin Hutton (Spe).
 ABOVE: Jim Musshafen, Deb Leh, Shanna Fraser (WC).
 ABOVE RIGHT: Bill Kent (Web), Kathy Dillon (B2, CC), and Mike Suffoletto (Web).
 LEFT: Liz Hallmark and Willa Powell (Roc).
 RIGHT: Maryanne Chaffee, Michelle Frechette-Ames, Brian O'Connor, Casey Kosiorek (Hil).



LEFT: Kathy Dillon (B2, CC) with MCSBA President Mike Suffoletto (Web).
 ABOVE: Mark Elledge (Pen) facilitating Upstate/Downstate resolutions breakfast meeting.
 RIGHT: Diane McBride (RH) and MCSBA Vice President Lisa Ireland (Bro).



MCSBA members from most member districts attended the October 12-14 NYSSBA Convention in Lake Placid.

More convention coverage on page 6.

News Scope

MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
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President – Mike Suffoletto, Webster CSD
Vice President – Lisa Ireland, Brockport CSD
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Steering Committee identifies 2017-2018 goals



ABOVE: Steering Committee Members at the group’s October 11 meeting are Lynn Fulmore (CC), Amy Jo Thomas (Pit), Jeff Crane (WI), Irene Narotsky (Pit), Mike Suffoletto (Web), Kim McCluski (Pit), John Piper (Pen), Valerie Baum (Pit), Gene Mancuso (HFL), Carmen Gumina (Web).

Steering Committee Members not pictured: John Abbott (B2), Tom Abbott (Hil), Gary Bracken (Spe), Kathy Dillon (B2, CC), Mark Elledge (Pen), Tammy Gurowski (Web), Lisa Ireland (Bro), and Nancy Pickering (Hil).



MCSBA goals for 2017-2018

At the October 11 meeting of the MCSBA Steering Committee, the following goals were identified:

- * Provide a Board/Superintendent symposium for members.
- * Begin development of mentoring activities for Board members.
- * Provide a networking event for Alumni.
- * Study the Constitution and By-Laws regarding membership boundaries and recommend any changes to the full membership.

From our president: The value of NYSSBA Convention

If you have read recent articles I have written for *Newscope*, you know the theme of telling our story has been recurrent. Having just attended the NYSSBA Convention, I thought it would be appropriate to share some thoughts about the convention.

When I first heard the convention would be held in Lake Placid, I wondered if the facilities would be able to handle the demands of such a large gathering of people. Those doubts were quickly put to rest.

The Convention and its workshops help Board members stay on top of trends and issues facing education. Board members must continually expand their knowledge and skills to realize the best educational practices in their districts. A Board member can never know enough about how a student learns, what impedes the students' learning, and how instruction can increase student learning. Attending this convention and its workshop sessions was a means for Board members to gain such knowledge.

If Board members can apply just one thing that they learn from the convention, it is worth the cost. There were a number of workshops that were of value. Two of those "stand out" presentations were given by Monroe County School Districts.

In the first, (full disclosure, I am biased here) Webster's Directors of Educational Technology and Information, explained how they involved all stakeholders in transforming learning through technology in their district. Webster now has a full 1:1 technology initiative supporting the engagement of ALL students, teachers, administrators,



Mike Suffoletto

parents, and the community. The process used for this undertaking was explained to those in attendance.

The second, offered by Brockport featured their superintendent, Dr. Lesli Myers, and attorney Anne McGinnis. The workshop entitled "Student Free Speech: Legal and Practical Implications" was very well attended, well received, and generated much discussion. The workshop also offered advice on how to foster student expression that is respectful and productive. I strongly recommend that our Information Exchange Committee ask Brockport to offer this session next year to our members.

The bonding that occurred between and among board members also made the convention worthwhile. By interacting with fellow board members, we learn how to listen and to work together. Boards whose members treat one another with respect tend to be the most effective. Those whose members give in to unpleasantness and cynicism tend to get less done.

The impact of respect goes beyond the board. The board sets the tone for the entire school system. Staff, students, parents, and the community are watching carefully to see how the board functions. Effective boards don't only handle their own work well -- they establish a model of collegiality and collaboration that builds confidence across the community that everyone is working to do what's best for students. Simply put, if you don't pull together, you will pull apart.

I would offer this advice to all boards of education. If it is possible, encourage all members of your Boards to attend a convention. It is worth the time, money, effort and, sometimes, inconveniences to participate in the professional development and collaboration that result from such endeavors. It is one of the best ways to succeed as a board.

Mike Suffoletto

From our executive director: Inspiration

Sometimes it is difficult to find inspiration in the chaos that we can let overwhelm our lives making it easy to forget what brought us to where we are in the first place. So, when an inspirational event occurs, it makes it all the more special. I want to share one of those.

At our most recent Information Exchange Committee meeting, the Rochester International Academy (RIA) Principal, Mary Andrecolich Montsano-Diaz and Assistant Principal, Jennifer Grimes presented on this unique school. They also brought three of their students.

These three students came from different refugee camps in different regions of the world. They fled their homes because they were under threat of death, homes where they also witnessed some terrifying events. One is a Senior, one a Junior and one just arrived last year. The Senior has a brother who graduated last year and this year they thought that their dad would be deported. The issues got resolved, but not without some tense moments. The Junior has only been in the country a year and half. Her little brother died on the way here. They both are on track to graduate on time.

They only want what we get by being born here: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They are teenagers in many ways, yet they have experienced so much in their short lives, experiences that we would find traumatic or unbearable. Some of their peers have PTSD.



Sherry Johnson

But, they are friendly with handshakes and hugs. They want us to know their stories, but they aren't focused on where they've been, only where they are going. They want to be able to celebrate their culture, but also to understand and live and work and be citizens in ours. We are their future and they are ours.

A chilling remark came at the end of the presentation when the Principal spoke of the continuous hate mail that she receives demanding that she send these kids and "their diseases" back to where they came from. She reads each piece and is struck by the notation on the bottom of some that finish with "God Bless America." She told us that the kids know what some think about them being here and that they aren't immune to the looks and the comments.

The work that RIA does is hard and it is many times against all odds. Ms. Montesano-Diaz tells teachers before she hires them that this is not a job or a career, this is a life choice.

What she is thankful for is the Rochester City Board of Education, which has been the continuous and supportive force in keeping RIA alive and functioning. The Board believes that this is the right thing for students, for the community and for society as a whole. This is what Boards do. They provide the inspiration and the support to see it through.

As we begin the month of Thanksgiving, we want you to know that we are thankful every day for the things you do to support inspiration and the good things that happen in your district every day.

Sherry Johnson



RIA serving refugee & immigrant students

Students and staff members from the City School District’s Rochester International Academy met with the Information Exchange Committee on October 18 to describe the programs offered to refugee and immigrant students who do not speak English. The presentation opened with students asking attendees to do a series of tasks in their native languages to demonstrate how confused and overwhelmed ENL students feel in traditional classrooms upon arriving here. RIA Principal Mary Andrecolich-Diaz presented a brief history of the Academy and noted that the Academy’s purpose is to overcome English language deficiency so students can access the instructional program.

Key points included:

- ENL (English as a New Language) students are all unique with widely varying needs based on their past experiences; some are highly educated while others have never attended school or are fluent only in oral language.
- Research guides expectations on rates of language acquisition (5 years “average”; the rate may double for older students).
- Programs developed specifically for ENL students are used.
- Services acclimate students to American routines, schedules and cultural norms.
- Teachers honor students’ native language and traditions.
- The Academy serves suburban-urban students from several local districts.
- The Academy has won the National School of Opportunity Award.



TOP: RIA Principal Mary Andrecolich-Diaz, RIA Student, Assistant Principal Jennifer Grimes, RIA Student, RIA Student, and Administrative Intern Shannon Allman.

ABOVE: RIA presenters discussing their program with the Information Exchange Committee.

Information Exchange Committee identifies programs for remaining 2017-2018 meetings

November 8	Building Resilience to Address the Impact of Trauma
January 10	Suicide and School Culture
February 14	Understanding Anxiety
March 14	Combating the Opioid Epidemic
April 18	Communicating with Stakeholders

Legislative subcommittees update position papers



ABOVE: State aid position subcommittee members Joyce Kostyk (Fpt), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), and Peter Sullivan (Pit).

LEFT: School choice position sub-committee members Joyce Kostyk (Fpt), MCSBA President Mike Suffoletto (Web), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), and Joe Alati (HFL).

Both sub-committees created draft positions for consideration by the full Legislative Committee. Once the committee approves the statements, they will be taken to the Steering and Executive Committees for final approval.

Retirement incentives

At the October meeting of the Labor Relations Committee, Michael Leone, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in Pittsford, led a discussion of employee retirement incentives. He noted that retirement incentives are a mandatory subject of bargaining and must be negotiated whether they occur as part of a contract renewal or a memorandum of agreement. He discussed negotiation considerations regarding incentives but stressed it was important for the negotiators to understand the board of education's core objectives for an incentive. He also stated that –

- Any retirement incentive is a tool to achieving the board's objective and not an outcome in itself;
- Language regarding continuous years of service and mandatory benefit conversion are important to include in a contract;
- Any plan must provide equal benefit to older and younger employees;
- Incentives and a district's employment environment impact staff turnover rates.



ABOVE: Labor Relations Committee Co-chair Irene Narotsky (Pit) and presenter Michael Leone, Pittsford Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

BELOW: Some of the participants in the October 25 Labor Relations Committee listening to Michael Leone.

Labor Relations Committee identifies programs for remaining 2017-2018 meetings

November 29	Employment Law Impacting Workplaces
January 17	Teacher Immersion Fellowship Program
February 18	TBD
March 21	RASHP Update
April 25	TBD



Schumer holds media conference on SALT

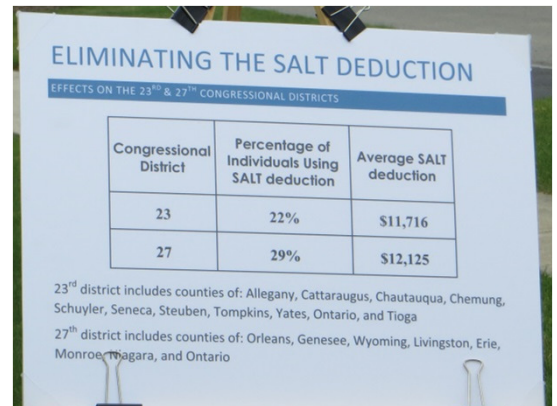
U.S. Senator Charles Schumer held a media conference in Canandaigua on October 23 to call attention to the harm to NYS residents of the proposed federal tax law that would eliminate federal tax deductions for state and local taxes. He referred to a letter opposing such action that was sent to leaders of the HR Ways & Means Committee and the U.S. Senate Finance Committee by more than 20 national associations and policy groups.

The letter notes, "The deduction for state and local taxes paid was one of the six deductions allowed under the original tax code when it was enacted in 1913. Eliminating or capping federal deductibility for state and local property, sales and income taxes would represent double taxation on local residents, as these taxes are mandatory payments for all taxpayers."

A statement from the Four County and Monroe County School Boards Associations states,

"New York taxpayers have overwhelmingly supported their local school budgets, year after year, because they understand the impact that high quality public education has on the stability of our economy. Because of that support, NYS boasts many of the best public schools in our nation.

"Removing the deduction of SALT from the federal tax code will punish New York taxpayers for supporting the services that they believe are critical for the health and welfare of their families. The 4-County and Monroe County School Board Association members thank Senator Schumer for his continued efforts to provide for the children and families in NYS by fighting against this proposal."



TOP: Chart showing effects of eliminating the SALT (State And Local Tax) deduction.

ABOVE: Shown at the media conference are Ellen Polimeni, Mayor of Canandaigua; Sharon Sweeney, Executive Director, Four County SBA; Jim Yockel, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Rochester Realtors Association; Sherry Johnson, Executive Director, MCSBA; J.D. DeBalso, home owner where conference occurred; and U.S. Senator Charles Schumer.

MCSBA at NYSSBA

Continued from page 1



TOP: Mark Elledge (Pen), Mike Bailey (GC) and Marvin Stepherson (GC).

ABOVE: Penfield's Barbara Babbiarz, Dr. Thomas Putnam, and Mark Elledge.

BELOW LEFT: Dr. Lesli Myers (Bro) leading a seminar.

BELOW CENTER: Kimberle Ward (GC) presiding.

RIGHT: NYSSBA voting delegates waiting for the annual business meeting to begin are Vince Antonicelli (ER), MCSBA President Mike Suffoletto (Web), and Barbara Babbiarz (Pen).

BELOW RIGHT: Voting delegates Dennis Laba (B2) and Kathy Dillon (B2, CC).



ABOVE: Doreen Swan; Susan Allen; Dr. David Miller, Clinical Professor, UR Warner School; Chief Information Officer Joe Sutorius; Kimberly Kane; Jeff Petrie; Idris Smith; and Kimberly Lasher. All but Dr. Miller are from the East Irondequoit CSD.

Several MCSBA members and staff members from their districts played an active role in the NYSSBA convention.

Presenting programs in Monroe County schools were:

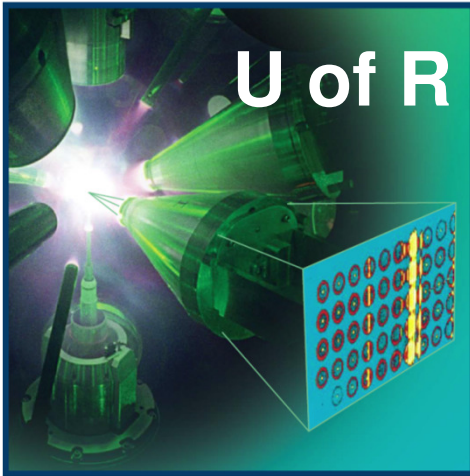
- * Dr. Lesli Myers, Brockport Superintendent, discussing student free speech;
- * Joseph Sutorius, East Irondequoit Chief Information Officer, describing digital conversion;
- * Brian Zimmer and Joseph Montemaro of Webster, outlining the administration role in their district's technology change.

Mark Elledge (Pen) chaired the Update/Downstate resolutions meeting that allowed members to share opinions about the resolutions before the annual NYSSBA business meeting.

Presiding at seminars were: Vincent Antonicelli (ER), Barbara Babbiarz (Pen), Robert Cook (RH), Kathy Dillon (B2, CC), and Kimberle Ward (GC).

In addition, Tom Nespeca (B1) is NYSSBA Treasurer (and Past President), and Willa Powell (Roc) is a member of the NYSSBA Board of Directors.





U of R

Laser Lab involves and inspires local high school scholars

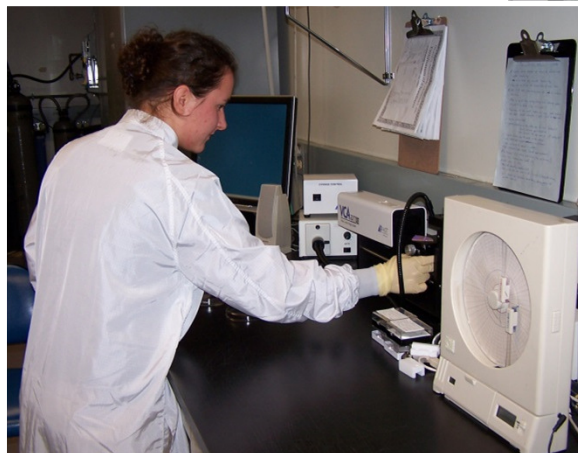
The Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE), established by the University of Rochester in 1970, is a national resource for research and education in the area of interaction of intense radiation with matter. LLE presents an annual summer research program for Rochester-area high school students who have just completed their junior year. The eight-week program provides an exceptional opportunity for highly motivated students to experience scientific research in a realistic environment.

Students who are accepted into the program are assigned to a research project and supervised by a staff scientist at the Laboratory. These projects form an integral part of the research program of the Laboratory and are related to the Laboratory's 60-beam OMEGA laser, one of the world's most powerful fusion lasers, and the OMEGA EP laser, completed in 2008.

Participation in the LLE program has helped students to gain entrance to top colleges and universities. A few recent student projects include:

- * Hydrodynamic simulations of small imploding targets;
- * Development of an application to promote web-based collaboration among experimental scientists;
- * Development of an algorithm to optimize pointings of laser beams on imploding targets;
- * Development of new designs for crystals that convert infrared light into ultraviolet light;
- * Hydrodynamic simulations of an alternative fusion concept;
- * Feasibility study of a digital microscope for characterizing sub-micron features at cryogenic temperatures.

This is part of a series describing summer programs that colleges offer high school students. They represent superior learning opportunities but students frequently don't know about them.



At the end of the program, the students present the results of their projects at a symposium at LLE. The students also produce written project reports that are available on LLE's website. The students work 40-hour weeks and are paid.

Appointments to the summer positions are competitive and students must begin the application process in February of their junior year of high school.

The 2017 LLE Summer Research Program for High School Juniors, which ran from 10 July through 1 September, involved 11 students, all but one of whom are from Monroe County public schools.

To learn more, visit <http://www.lle.rochester.edu>. For more specific information, contact Ms. Jean Steve, Program Coordinator (jste@lle.rochester.edu or 585- 275-5286) or Dr. R. Stephen Craxton, Program Director (scra@lle.rochester.edu or 585- 275-5467).

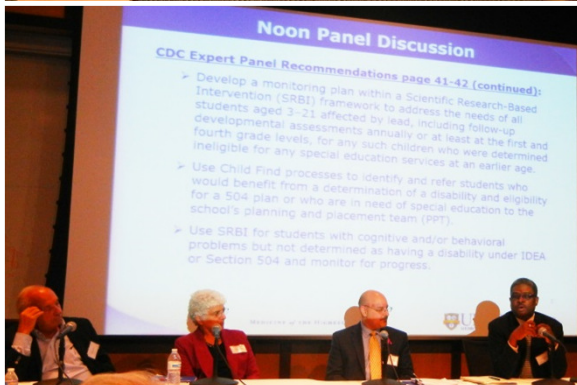
LEFT & ABOVE: Former LLE interns from Brighton and Churchville-Chili High Schools

Illustration at top of page from cover of *LLE Review Quarterly Report*, University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics, Volume 118, January–March 2009.



Progress, remaining challenges in war against lead poisoning

Lead, which is still an environmental factor in older homes and public buildings, is known to be a factor in causing ADHD, autism, and brain malfunctions in central processing, auditory processing, and executive functioning (including impulse control). In turn these issues lead to lower IQ scores as well as an increased risk of later delinquency and incarceration. While some of the effects of lead poisoning are thought to be permanent, recent brain research has shown that the brain can recover and re-build if the source of the poison is removed and if steps are taken to stimulate brain cells to grow and re-connect. This intervention is more successful the earlier the problem is discovered, preferably preK-2, while the brain is still growing.



“The Effect of Lead Exposure on learning: The Way Forward” Conference

Presenters at this October 18 conference, hosted by the WNY Lead Poisoning Resource Center’s Rochester Office for educators and medical professionals, focused on how recent research has led to guidelines for educators to help children who have been exposed to lead poisoning. The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in 2015 published a document providing educational interventions for children affected by lead. Since lead can poison each child differently, each child needs to be monitored: first to find blood lead levels, then for signs of different learning disorders if the presence of lead is detected. Once a learning disorder is discovered, IDEA interventions can be initiated. The key to success is blood lead level testing for all young children and intervening early on if lead-poisoned children develop delays. Various systems are being constructed to collect data that can be used to help educators determine which services their students need.



Legislative initiatives

* In NYS outside NYC, school districts are prohibited from accessing blood lead level data that exist in the NYSIIS (NYS Immunization Information System). Legislation supported by Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle, among others, is seeking to give districts the same access as NYC schools have to medical data on students that would help educational leaders identify educational needs and methods for meeting them. Such action on the Legislature’s part would be compliant with one recommendation of the CDC that governmental agencies helping children take steps to overcome the silo effect, to share data, and to collaborate on developing programs to help children.

* Another legislative issue is funding for preK special education so interventions can be provided when they would be most beneficial to children.

Benefits of Social Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning is now understood to be useful for all students, brain damaged or not, but is seen as a critical factor in overcoming the effects of lead poisoning. Teachers can learn strategies that work with all students to help them to make better decisions and to practice self-control. Schools in our area are developing an SEL curriculum and classroom practices that permeate academics. In addition, there is now software that can help to restore cognitive function for brain damaged children, whether that damage was caused by lead, stress, and/or trauma.

TOP: Presenters at the UR Nursing School conference on lead poisoning included Andrew MacGowann III, Rochester CSD Project Administrator; Dr. Ralph Spezio, former Rochester CSD Principal and co-founder of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning; Dr. Patricia McLaine, Faculty Member at University of Maryland School of Nursing and member of committee that developed CDC guidelines on educational interventions for lead poisoning; Dr. Stanley Schaffer, Pediatrician and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, URMC, and Director of the Western NY Lead Poisoning Resource Center; and Dr. Peter Simon, retired Medical Director, Division of Community, Family Health and Equity, Rhode Island Department of Health, developer of KIDSNET, a program that helps to coordinate health and education services for children .

MIDDLE: Panelists discussing educational interventions recommended by the CDC included Dr. Peter Simon; Dr. Patricia McLaine; Dr. Ray Giamartino, Rochester CSD Chief Accountability Officer; and Wade Norwood, Chief Strategy Officer, Common Ground Health, and Member, NYS Board of Regents.

BOTTOM: Kathleen Graupman, Greece CSD Superintendent; Dr. Suzanne Bamonto, Associate Professor, Graduate Program Director, RIT Department of Psychology; Elizabeth Devaney, Director of Social Emotional Learning Center, Children’s Institute; and Caterina Mannino, Rochester CSD Principal.

Resources:

“Educational Interventions for Children Affected by Lead.” CDC. April 2015
https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/publications/educational_interventions_children_affected_by_lead.pdf;
 Rochester Office, Western NY Lead Poisoning Resource Center
<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/childrens-hospital/lead-poisoning-resource-center.aspx>