



ABOVE: Incoming MCSBA President Mike Suffoletto (Web), Incoming Vice President Lisa Ireland (Bro), Outgoing President John Piper (Pen), Treasurer John Abbott (B2), and Outgoing Past President Mark Kokanovich (Bri).

At MCSBA's 48th Annual Meeting in May, members elected **Michael Suffoletto** of Webster as President, **Lisa Ireland** (Bro) as Vice President, and **John Abbott** of Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES as Treasurer.

Mike Suffoletto has served as President of the Webster Board of Education since 2012 and has been an active member of MCSBA since his election in 2008. He served a term as a Co-Chair of the Information Exchange committee, and also served on the Labor Relations Committee for much of his tenure.

Lisa Ireland has been a member of the Brockport School Board since 2012, and has served as its President since 2014. She has also served as the co-chair of MCSBA's Information Exchange Committee (2015-2016) and Legislative Committee (2016-2017).

In their capacities as school board presidents both these officers have been actively involved with the MCSBA Board Presidents Committee and Executive Committee.

John Abbott was a member of the Hilton Board from 1984 -1993, and has served on the Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES Board since 1994. He has been the MCSBA Treasurer since 2002; before that he served a term as co-chair of the Labor Relations Committee. He is East Irondequoit's Deputy Superintendent.

During the business meeting, retiring school board members and 2016-17 committee chairs were recognized for their leadership.

Annual Meeting pictures appear on pages 4-5.



ABOVE: During the annual meeting, Julie Marlette, NYSSBA Governmental Relations, Director, summarized some of the major state and federal issues facing public education.

News Scope

MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
220 Idlewood Road, Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 328-1972 www.mcsba.org

President – John Piper, Penfield CSD
Vice President – Mike Suffoletto, Webster CSD
Past President – Mark Kokanovich, Brighton CSD
Treasurer – John Abbott, Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES
Executive Director - Sherry Johnson, Sherry_Johnson@boces.monroe.edu
Assistant to Executive Director – Beckie Schultz, Beckie_Schultz@boces.monroe.edu

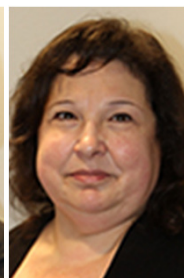


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Farewell & thank you to departing members



MCSBA leaders (in the order shown above):

Aggie Seneway (Hil), President 2011-2012, Legislative Committee Co-Chair 2009-2010, Labor Relations Co-Chair 2002-2003;

Robert Bower (RH), Labor Relations Committee co-Chair 2014-2015;

Linda Burlingame (B2), Information Exchange Committee Co-Chair 2008-2009;

Ann Carmody (Web), Legislative Committee Co-Chair 2015-2016;

Camille Rutan (Pen), Information Committee Co-Chair 2015-2016;

Douglas Spallina (EI), Labor Relations Committee Co-Chair 2008-2009;

Carol Watt (EI), Information Exchange Committee Co-Chair 2005-2006;

OTHER RETIREES:

Stacey Beaumont (EI)

Lowell Benjamin (GC)

Lisa Cristoffel (Gre)

Michael Crumb (Spe)

Michael Dedee (Spe)

Salvatore DeLuca, III (Hol)

Timothy Gagnon (Hil)

Christopher Gerken (Ken)

Martin Goodenbery (Ken)

Marci Hosford (Fpt)

Colette Morabito (ER)

Lloyd Ruffle III (Gre)

Kim Snyder (WC)

Janet Somes (HFL)

Garry Zimmer (Bro)

Remembering Doug Spallina

Former MCSBA Labor Relations Committee Co-Chair died May 12 at age 59. He had served as a member of the East Irondequoit School Board since 2000. Those wishing may contribute to the Eastridge Alumni Association, Douglas J. Spallina Scholarship Fund in his memory.



Welcome to our new members

Kristen Brumbaugh (CC)

Maryanne Chaffee (Hil)

Catherine Coffee (GC)

Kathy Dillon (B2)

Kevin Glover (Fpt)

Jeffrey Harradine (Bro)

Matt Hogan (ER)

William Kent (Web)

Jennifer Laird (RH)

Lisa Levett (Ken)

Daniel Milgate (Spe)

Andrea Newman (Hol)

Beth Nolan (WC)

Brian O'Connor (Hil)

Jonathan Ottney (Pen)

Rich Oxley (EI)

Gary Pawlak (EI)

Jason ReQua (Ken)

Caralyn Ross (HFL)

Rene Sanchez-Kazacos (Pit)

John Siwicki (Gre)

Janis Strege (Spe)

Mary Catilin Wight (Gre)

From our outgoing president

I appreciate the opportunity I've had this year to serve as your president. My thanks go to the members of the Penfield Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Tom Putnam, as well as MCSBA officers and staff members for their support.



John Piper

This year, our accomplishments were many, as we continued our growth and leadership in advocacy, with our legislative breakfast and trips to Albany. As I have often said, politics is every board member's business!

Our initiative to bring our retired board members together to take advantage of their unencumbered voices for education has started and will continue in the fall. Our mentor/leadership initiative led to additions to some of our programs to enhance the professionalism of our members. We are also working toward a superintendent/board president leadership series.

This past year the Victor Board of Education expressed interest in MCSBA services, and we worked to provide a solution to provide education to their board members while maintaining the interests of our members first. Thank you to all who contributed to that success.

Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs, larger and heavier than greyhounds, have a distinctive standing v-shaped ridge of hair on their backs. These dogs were bred to serve as pack guard dogs stationed next to fire pits to protect villages from lions and hyenas that would attack after dark. Upon an intrusion by predators, ridgebacks encircle the intruders and bark, keeping them at bay until residents come to drive the animals away. Our districts and our students are at risk like the Rhodesian villagers. School board members are the Ridgebacks of our communities, making noise and holding off those who intend to harm public education. We must remain united in our mission and prevail.

Thank you.

John Piper

From our incoming president

It is very humbling to be selected to lead this extraordinary, amazing organization. During the past year I have found that working with officers and staff has been easy and gratifying. Thank you to these individuals for what they have shared with me.



Mike Suffoletto

Public education gets plenty of negative ink these days. Yet only public schools accept and retain all students, no matter their race, no matter their religion, no matter their social class, no matter their family income, no matter their special needs or personal characteristics. We share a strong commitment to every single child, believing that in Monroe County we provide some of the highest quality education you can get in the state. We teach more, we help more, we achieve more.

Politicians on both sides of the aisle for years have been using falsehoods about our public schools to sell an alternative. They say our public schools are beyond saving and that we need to privatize. They call it School choice but it's really just an attempt to destroy the system that has so much going for it. It is interesting to note that after years of hearing these falsehoods, on a recent Gallup poll, parents were asked their opinion of their local school and then the public was asked its opinion of schools in general. The results were enlightening. Parents gave their local school an A average at the highest percentage ever, whereas only 1% of the respondents rated schools in general that way. Why the difference? Respondents said it was mostly because people knew about their

local schools through direct experience. They only learned about the state of education state-wide and nationally through the news media.

As the Executive Director of the National School Board Association, Tom Gentzel said, "even as we face the enormous headwinds buffeting public education in the form of budget cuts, lack of support from state and federal officials, and privatization efforts, public schools gladly accept the charge we have been given – To not only welcome every child every day, but to educate them at a level no previous generation even attempted to achieve."

In Monroe County we must refresh our efforts to put a positive face on public education. We must set the record straight. A look at today's public schools in Monroe County reveals school districts have effectively implemented a wide range of initiatives, from more effective teaching practices, greater responsiveness to individual student needs, and adaptation to a rapidly changing society in which preparing students to use technology and information as workers, consumers, and citizens is central.

We need to sell our stories. We need to make sure our stories sell the fact that thousands of our Monroe county students are thriving in our public schools. We need to thwart one-issue, one-dimensional organizations and associations from high-jacking the democratic principles of our school systems. I look forward to working for you and with you in the coming year. And we can change the light on public schools. Let's use all of our boards and superintendents to light up the vital role public schools play.

Mike Suffoletto



Annual meeting photo album

TOP LEFT: Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Mark Elledge (Pen) and Lisa Ireland (Bro) receiving commemorative certificates from President John Piper (Pen). Kathy Dillon (CC) received a certificate for her service as representative to the Council of Governments. Other committee leaders who were unable to attend include Tom Abbott (Hil), Gary Bracken (Spe), Peter Forsgren (Fpt), and Amy Thomas (Pit).

TOP CENTER: Collette Morabito (EI) receiving a plaque upon her retirement from President John Piper for her school board service. Other retiring members, including those who have led MCSBA leadership positions, are listed on page 2.

TOP RIGHT: Retiring Spencerport Superintendent Michael Crumb receiving a plaque recognizing his service.



ABOVE: Outgoing MCSBA President John Piper accepting a plaque honoring his service to the Association from Incoming President Mike Suffoletto.

During the meeting President Piper thanked sponsors Hunt Engineering Architects for supporting the annual meeting, as well as the Garden Factory for donating the table centerpieces that some lucky individuals got to take home.

ABOVE LEFT: MCSBA Executive Director Sherry Johnson presenting her annual report of Association activities.

ABOVE RIGHT: Nominating Committee Chair and long-term Immediate Past President Mark Kokanovich (Bri) presenting the slate of MCSBA officers for the 2017-2018 school year. Seen sitting in front of Mark is Mike Suffoletto (Web).

Mark has served as a leader for MCSBA since 2014 when he assumed the presidency early due to the resignation of the president. He then served his own term as president from 2014-15. He served as 2015-16 immediate past president, and then served in that role again this past year when the outgoing president in 2016 retired from board service.





ABOVE LEFT: Penfield High School Jazz Combo performing at the Annual Meeting.



ABOVE RIGHT: Tom Nespeca (B1), NYSSBA Treasurer with Incoming MCSBA President Mike Suffoletto (Web).

BELOW LEFT: Collette Morabito (ER) and Vince Antonicelli (ER).

BELOW CENTER: Jo Anne Antonacci (B2) distributing information about ACT for Education to Brockport and Hilton district leaders at the Annual Meeting. Seen at the table are Terry Ann Carbone, Lisa Ireland, and Jake Reimer of Brockport with Nancy Pickering and Casey Kosiorek of Hilton.

RIGHT: Mike Crumb, who is retiring as Spencerpot Superintendent at the end of June, with Bob Dickson (B1) and Fred Shippey (B1).



RIGHT: Fairport Board Members Maureen Nupp, Marty Cardona, Joyce Kostyk, and Marilyn Monkelbaan.



LEFT: Representing Rush-Henrietta are Sean McCormick, Bob Cook, Ken Graham, and Diane McBride.



RIGHT: Some of the 56 school district leaders who attended the 48th MCSBA Annual Meeting in May. Seen in the background are the jazz band from Penfield High School that entertained guests as well as the continuous Powerpoint presentation showing highlights from this past year.



Annual meeting photo album



Meetings with lawmakers in local offices

In May and June MCSBA members met with members of our state delegation in their local offices to thank them for supporting our districts, and to discuss other issues:

- * Opposition to continued diversion of funds to Charter schools;
- * Lack of funding at SED for an accountability study for charters that was due in several years ago;
- * The need for planning in response to the impact to NYS (assuming the cuts will be more than \$850 million);
- * Sponsored legislation, A03899, access to student blood level information for schools outside of NYC (we provided a memorandum of support for that bill) which appears to still be in the health committee;
- * PLUS the upcoming vote on the Constitutional Convention, tax cap relief, BOCES construction costs, pilots, and the Rush-Henrietta proposal for relief from unanticipated spikes in special education and /or ELL students.



ABOVE: Marv Sachs (Bri), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Stacey Beaumont (EI), Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle, and Joe Alati (HFL).

BELOW: Beckie Schultz (MCSBA), Kimberle Ward (GC), Assemblyman Harry Bronson, and Sherry Johnson (MCSBA).



LEFT: Maureen Nupp (Fpt), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Assemblyman Mark Johns, Ann Carmody (Web), and Beckie Schultz (MCSBA).



Gates Chili celebrates 60 years



ABOVE LEFT: Former Gates Chili School Board Members Rhonda Laskoski and Frank Muscato with Superintendent Kimberle Ward at the Gates Chili celebration of the 60th anniversary of its creation.

ABOVE RIGHT: Superintendent Kimberle Ward welcoming participants to the celebration.

LEFT: Student performers at the anniversary party.



SAANYS awards for local educational leaders



Kim McClucki of the Pittsford Board of Education (and former MCSBA President), received the 2017 statewide SAANYS (School Administrators Association of NYS) Friend of Education Award from SAANYS President Paul Fanuele at a ceremony in Albany in early May.

In late April, Mark Kokanovich of the Brighton School Board received the 2017 SAANYS Region 11 Friend of Education Award at a regional reception. Region 11 serves members in Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates counties.

During both events, administrators at the state and region levels were also honored.

LEFT: In Albany for the presentation of the statewide Friend of Education Award are Amy Thomas (Pit), award recipient Kim McCluski (Pit), and Mark Kokanovich (Bri).

2017 Genesee Valley ASCD award recipients

Each year, Genesee Valley ASCD honors outstanding leaders in our educational community. The 2017 GVASCD Award recipients are:

- ★ **Supervision Award – Dr. Robert Ike,**
Superintendent, Palmyra-Macedon CSD;
- ★ **Curriculum Award – Dr. Deborah Baker,**
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction,
Brighton CSD; and
- ★ **Sister Edwardine Weaver Service to
Education Award – Mr. Michael Crumb,**
Superintendent, Spencerport CSD.

Dr. Ike was unable to attend the reception because of a previous commitment

RIGHT: Dr. Debby Baker and Michael Crumb with the commemorative plaques they received at the reception.

