

## MCSBA members meet with Albany Leaders



On December 4, a group of 25 MCSBA members traveled to Albany to meet with key staff people in the governor's office, legislative chambers, and the State Education Department. This one-day trip in December was initiated in 2004 to keep public education a priority and to discuss priorities that state leaders are developing for the state budget and the upcoming legislative session.

This year's discussions were punctuated by concern with the effects of the proposed Congressional budget and tax reforms.



ABOVE: Seen in the lobby of the State Education Department building are Tom Putnam (Pen), Tim DeLucia (Vic), Willa Powell (Roc), Liz Hallmark (Roc), Judy O'Leary-Sargeant (Fpt), Mary Caitlin Wight (Gre), Lynn Fulmore (CC), Valerie Baum (Pit), Joyce Kostyk (Fpt), Dawn Santiago-Marullo (Vic), and Brian O'Connor (Hil).

ABOVE: Shown in the Capitol Building are Willa Powell (Roc), Jeff Crane (WI), Liz Hallmark (Roc), John Piper (Pen), Mary Caitlin Wight (Gre), Judy O'Leary-Sargeant (Fpt), Valerie Baum (Pit), Kevin Glover (Fpt), Tim Terranova (WI), Brett Provenzano (Fpt), and Joyce Kostyk (Fpt).

RIGHT: Seen outside the Capitol building upon their arrival in Albany are Mark Elledge (Pen), Valerie Baum (Pit), Tim DeLucia (Vic), Mark Kokanovich (Bri), Dawn Santiago-Marullo (Vic), Mary Caitlin Wight (Gre), John Piper (Pen), Bruce Capron (HFL), Brian Freeman (Web), Barb Babiarz (Pen), and Mike Suffoletto (Web).





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## Best wishes for the coming year from your MCSBA officers & staff:

*Mike Suffoletto  
Lisa Ireland  
John Piper  
John Abbott*

*Sherry Johnson  
Beckie Schultz  
Mary Talbot*



## From our president: Dealing with the opioid epidemic



Mike Suffoletto

Like other communities in New York State, Monroe County knows all too well the deadly toll of heroin and opioid addiction. Over a six-year period in Monroe County, the number of drug-related deaths increased 64 percent, according to an analysis of federal data by the Rockefeller Institute of Government.

The opioid crisis has affected everyone in some way, shape or form, whether it be a student, parent, neighbor, friend, or family member.

If you attended the workshop on Opioid and Heroin Abuse at the State School Board Convention this year, you learned that 9 out of 10 people with addiction started using before the age of 18; and that 23% of people between the age of 18-25 are using illicit substances. Furthermore, we were given examples of how this crisis is creating unforeseen expenses to school districts, and it is creating further stress on already overtaxed social service and health care systems.

In an effort to curb this crisis, states are looking to public schools to go beyond “Just Say No” and revamp their drug abuse education programs. Would it be useful to engage high school students through classroom lessons about the ongoing crisis? Would it be useful to prepare elementary school students with the right tools to make healthy decisions? Would it be useful to bring in people recovering from addiction to tell their stories? Would it be useful to teach students about the science behind drug addiction? Would it be useful to work

to get students and parents talking to each other and learn to recognize signs of abuse?

Opioid addiction is a complex issue, and it will take citizens, elected officials, organizations and law enforcement working together to fight it. It will also take a societal shift in mindset about illicit drug addiction. As was stated at the Opioid and Heroin Abuse workshop at the State Convention, we need to find a way to help people who are addicted to drugs, and not just punish them. “It is time to start seeing addiction for what it is, a disease that needs treatment. The addict needs love, compassion, and support in order to be successful. As we pursue new cures, we cannot forget compassion and love are the oldest medicines we have. Their power to heal is immense.”

The Executive Committee of MCSBA recently met with County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo and Dr. Mendoza, Monroe County Health Director, to discuss partnering our efforts regarding this opioid crisis. Dr. Mendoza offered the following suggestions for schools boards: (1) Address the stigma of addiction and overdose, and raise your school’s community awareness. (2) Schools should consider stocking naran, a medication used to block the effects of opioid overdose. (3) Evaluate your district’s support services and counseling programs. And(4) sponsor informational forums for the community.

By continuing to place caring adults in the lives of young people and by expanding access to afterschool programs and mental health services as well as educating our students and community we can hopefully illuminate an alternate path to those living in the shadow of addiction.

*Mike Suffoletto*

# From our executive director: PEACE

“We live in interesting times.” This phrase was first purported to be said by Sir Austen Chamberlain in 1936. Although there is no proof of such, it is supposed to be a Chinese curse to enemies that they “may live in an interesting age.”

I reflected recently that I was in kindergarten during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I remember the drills, but I have no recollection of the crisis that brought those drills to my school. I also have no memory of being fearful. My father-in-law was in the Air Force during that time, stationed at Edward’s Air Force base. My husband, while only a year older than I, has many more memories of that time, because Edwards would have been one of Russia’s “primary” targets. Along with the drills, every third driveway had to have a car in it at all times and buses remained outside the school during the entire day. But, he also has no memories of being fearful.

Back then in 1962, communication was selective. We had black and white television sets with few channels, party line telephones and radio. Whatever our parents did know, it was easy to protect us from it.

Our children’s world is very different, and how we deal with the information overload that comes with our need and desire to be always connected is important to their ability to challenge and manage the world they now need to grow up in.



**Sherry Johnson**

We are acutely aware of a myriad of issues that we would not likely even know existed before and these come to us in real time. Add these to our own personal dilemmas and we currently find ourselves drenched in stress, drowning in a sea of prescription pain relievers, and our anxiety is now our children’s.

Our leaders have recently intensified this anxiousness by both their decisions and their behaviors. Ronald Reagan once said, “A people free to choose will always choose peace.” But as we poke our enemies and alienate our allies it remains to be seen whether we will be able to stand alone in a world that believes us to be arrogantly righteous, or succumb to a world that forces our hand. It doesn’t feel like we are choosing peace here at home or abroad. Indeed, I firmly believe that we have found ourselves in yet another one of those “interesting times.”

But this is the season for light and love and hope. We resolved the Cuban Missile Crisis. We went to the moon, passed civil rights legislation, developed policies on how to help the needy and prioritized education for all of our children, including those with disabilities. And, we will figure out how to move forward from these “interesting times.” President Kennedy said, “The world knows that America will never start a war.... we want to build a world of peace where the weak are secure and the strong are just.” I want to believe that both Presidents’ remarks still stand today.

So for now, I wish you peace. In whatever way you define it, in whatever moment it comes to you and for those with whom you choose to surround yourself.

*Sherry Johnson*

## Welcome, Victor Board of Education, to MCSBA

The Victor Board of Education has voted to join MCSBA as an Associate Member. At this level of membership, Victor board members and administrators will have the option to participate in MCSBA events but without voting rights. Victor becomes the first member district outside Monroe County that is not a member of either of the BOCES that serve Monroe County districts.

Be sure to welcome these seven new board members and their superintendent, all of whom are pictured here.



ABOVE: Tim DeLucia, Karen Ballard, Mike Young, Debbie Palumbo-Sanders, Christopher Parks, Gary Gilbert, and Kristin Elliott.

RIGHT: Dawn Santiago-Marullo, Ed.D.



# Finance conference for new board members

At the six-hour November 2017 seminar on fiscal responsibilities of board of education members, presented by MCSBA and approved by the NYSED, participants heard presentations on the following topics:

**Role of Boards of Education & Administration in Financial Planning and Oversight** by *Mark Kokanovich*, President, Brighton Board of Education;

**Board of Education Budget Planning** by *Rick Wood*, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Spencerport CSD;

**What Financial Reports Tell** by *Sharon Zacher*, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Holley CSD;

**Checks and Balances to Prevent Misuse of Resources** by *Louis Alaimo*, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Chief Negotiator, Brighton CSD;

**Auditor Functions (Claims, Internal, and External)** by *Raymond F. Wager, CPA* Raymond F. Wager, CPT, P.C. ;

**Fund Balance & Reserves** by *Dr. Bruce Capron*, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Honeoye Falls-Lima CSD.



ABOVE: Presenters Mark Kokanovich, Rick Wood, Sharon Zacher, and Raymond Wager.



LEFT: Presenters Louis Alaimo and Dr. Bruce Capron.



LOWER LEFT: MCSBA President Mike Suffoletto welcoming participants to the seminar.

BELOW:  
 Front row: Mary Caitlin Wight (Greece), John Siwicki (Greece), Thomas Hawks (Naples);  
 Back row: Jon Ottney (Penfield), Chris McDonald (Geneseo), Linda Jones (Seneca Falls), Claire Smith (Letchworth), Bill Kent (Webster), Maryanne Chaffee (Hilton), Caralyn Ross (Honeoye Falls-Lima), Jan Stregge (Webster), Barbara Bowman (Batavia), Kevin Glover (Fairport), Catherine Coffee (Gates Chili), Jonah Broughton (Attica), Julie Matthews (Geneseo), Jennifer Laird (Rush-Henrietta), and Rene Sanchez-Karacos (Pittsford).  
 Not pictured: Matt Hogan.



# Dealing with trauma

At their November meeting, members of the Information Exchange Committee heard about the Greater Rochester Initiative for Children's Social and Emotional Health commissioned by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation in partnership with the University of Rochester. The initiative is a follow up to a needs assessment and recommendations report by the Foundation on children's behavioral health in the Finger Lakes region last year.

The initiative aims to challenge the status quo and inspire action to significantly improve the social and emotional health of children throughout the Greater Rochester area. The initiative involves school districts and agencies that serve children and youth with a focus on trauma response and prevention via trauma informed care.

The presenters noted the need for trauma informed care by sharing statistics on the prevalence and impact of trauma, noting that high levels of trauma can significantly shorten life expectancy and impact a person's overall health.

They defined trauma informed care as a "strengths-based framework grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma." Trauma-informed care is promoted when organizations and providers integrate understanding of trauma into their everyday practices to strengthen capacity to assist trauma survivors.

The presenters also suggested attending an upcoming "Summit on Raising Resilience" on January 9 at St. John Fisher College.



ABOVE: presenters on trauma Anne Sherman, Regional Director of Community Based Services, Hillside Family Agencies; Tim Dobbertin, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Programs, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES; and Kristine Feeney, Program Administrative Assistant, Greater Rochester Health Foundation.

Key principles of trauma informed care include:

- \* Safety
- \* Trustworthiness and Transparency
- \* Peer support
- \* Collaboration and Mutuality
- \* Empowerment, Voice and Choice
- \* Cultural, Historical, and Gender issues.

# Employment Law Impacting Schools

At the November 29 meeting of the Labor Relations Committee, Michael L. Dodd, Esq. of Ferrara Fiorenza PC reviewed labor laws affecting public education. Among his comments were the following:

## \* Federal Overtime Rules and NYS Overtime Rules

The Federal Department of Labor's (DOL) authority to set a minimum overtime threshold is tied up in court and there is a gap between Federal and NYS regulations. NYS regulations have changed and increases in threshold wages for exemptions will increase incrementally until 2021. He cautioned that DOL audits are increasing.

## \* NYS Paid Family Leave/ FMLA

Paid Family Leave (PFL) is a state law going into effect January 1, 2018. Employees will be eligible for 8 weeks of salary at 50% of their average wage or that of the average weekly state wage, whichever is lower. Benefits under this law will increase until 2021. FMLA is a state law that went into effect in 1993, granting employees up to 12 weeks of job guaranteed leave with specific requirements. He suggested districts check their policies, regulations, and past practices.

## \* Use of Surveillance Cameras

NYS penal law makes mechanical overhearing of conversation without consent a Class E felony. He suggested considering annual written notification for all parties affected by its use.

## \* Discrimination Law

NYS Division of Human Rights regulations, which went into effect in 2016, make discrimination against an individual because of association with members of a protected class illegal. He suggested conducting regular interactive harassment training for all employees.



TOP: Michael L. Dodd, Esq., with Labor Relations Committee Co-Chairs Tom Abbott (Hil) and Irene Narotsky (Pit).

ABOVE: Some of those attending the November Labor Relations Committee meeting.

# MCSBA in Albany



ABOVE: Dan Golden, Assembly Deputy P-12 Education; Selena Hajiani Legislative aide; Brett Provenzano (Fpt), Mark Kokanovich (Bri), Mike Suffoletto (Web), Bruce Capron (HFL), Mark Elledge (Pen), Kevin Glover (Fpt).

BELOW: Josh Korn, Assembly Ways & Means Staff Member, Brian Freeman (Web), Barb Babiarz (Pen), Mark Kokanovich (Bri), and Mark Elledge (Pen).



ABOVE: Shown at a meeting with SED officials are Willa Powell (Roc), Dee Dywer (Office of Early Learning), Chris Suranio (Assistant Commissioner, Special Education), and Suzanne Bolling (Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Education).

BELOW: At the same meeting with SED officials are Judy O'Leary-Sargeant (Fpt), Joyce Kostyk (Fpt), Tom Putnam (Pen), Chris Suranio (SED), Suzanne Bolling (SED), Liz Hallmark, Tim Delucia (Vic), Lynn Fulmore (CC), Mary Caitlin Wight (Gre), and Valerie Baum (Pit).



RIGHT: Brian Chechnicki, Director of Education Finance, at the meeting with SED officials.

LEFT: Meeting with Jamie Frank, Governor's Assistant Secretary for Education, (at center of picture) are Judy O'Leary-Sargeant (Fpt), Tim Terranova (WI), Joyce Kostyk (Fpt), Willa Powell (Roc), Brett Provenzano (Fpt), Gene Mancuso (HFL), Kevin Glover (Fpt), Valerie Baum (Pit), Mary Caitlin Wight (Gre), and Jeff Crane (WI).



## Issues discussed with state leaders in December

On December 4, MCSBA members met with key appointed leaders of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Minority Finance Group, and the Assembly Minority Leader's Office.

Topics raised with legislative staff members included –

- \* The effects of the federal budget proposal and tax reform bills;
- \* Predicted state budget deficits;
- \* Projected funding for education in the Governor's budget proposal;
- \* Likelihood of the Governor signing approved state bills that would include PILOT growth and BOCES capital projects in the tax cap;
- \* Increased numbers of English Language Learners (and no funding for required staff increases);
- \* Charter schools / school choice impacts;
- \* Request for repeal of the APPR component from education law;
- \* Request for repeal of the 60% supermajority (including the penalty for breaching the cap).

Some MCSBA members met with Jamie Frank, the Governor's Assistant Secretary for Education. These added topics were discussed with her:

- \* Governor's priorities for the Executive budget;

- \* Governor's reaction to the proposed permanent 2% tax cap suggested by Senator Flannigan;
- \* Unsustainability of current funding model for education which requires districts to operate with structural deficits'
- \* Reduction of costs by having NYS share census data gathered via NYS income tax forms;
- \* Full-day kindergarten funding.

Members also met with key leaders of the SED, including the Assistant Commissioner of Special Education Policy, Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner of Education, Director of Education Finance, and Coordinator of Education Management Services.

Topics discussed with these leaders included:

- \* Impact of guidance regulations that the SED rescinded as unnecessary and ineffective on NYS policy and funding;
- \* Need for changes to state special education regulations;
- \* Potential support for schools that would like to introduce UPK programs but don't qualify under grant requirements;
- \* Structure and timeline for consolidation of pre-school funding;
- \* Blue ribbon panel's recommendations to make 5 the compulsory school age;.
- \* Increased numbers of English Language Learners and required staff increases to comply with the co-teaching mandate;
- \* Impact of increased numbers of students attending charter schools on transportation costs.

# Local meetings with NYS officials



In November groups of MCSBA members met with state officials in their local offices—

- \* To seek effects of federal budget proposals and Wall Street income on state support for public education;
- \* To state MCSBA opposition to Senator Flanigan's push to make the tax cap legislation permanent;
- \* To state MCSBA concern about the diversion of funds to Charter schools;
- \* To state MCSBA opposition to education tax credits;
- \* To share concerns about full-day Kindergarten funding in the state aid formula;
- \* To note the impact of school choice even though charter schools do not offer a better alternative nor do they help those in poverty to make significant progress, in spite of having 20 years to prove their worth;
- \* To state MCSBA opposition to allowing charters to train their own teachers;
- \* To state MCSBA preference that charter schools be treated as private schools and have their special legislation removed.

TOP: Mary Caitlin Wight (Gre), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Senator Joseph Robach, Beckie Schultz (MCSBA), Richard Cunningham (Gre), Valerie Baum (Pit), Casey Kosiorek (Hil), and Kim Ward (GC).

MIDDLE: Beckie Schultz (MCSBA), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), John Piper (Pen), Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle, Mark Kokanovich (Bri), and Valerie Baum (Pit).

BOTTOM: Joyce Kostyk (Fpt), Valerie Baum (Pit), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Matt Nelligan of Senator Funke's office, Maureen Nupp (Fpt), and Kim Kane (EI).

## County officials meet with executive committee

Monroe County leaders met with the MCSBA Executive Committee on December 6 to discuss the current opioid epidemic that is affecting all aspects of our community. County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo and Dr. Michael Mendoza, Monroe County Health Commissioner presented information on the opioid crisis and resources that the county has to assist school districts in addressing the crisis.

At the same meeting, Executive Committee members approval two new position papers: **The NYS Constitution and Public Education**, which address accountability and loss of public school funding for various school choice options; and **The State's Investment in Public Education**, which addresses the obligation of the New York State government to support public education, and explore every possible source of revenue to support this mandate.



ABOVE: MCSBA Treasurer John Abbott (B2), MCSBA Vice President Lisa Ireland (Bro), MCSBA President Mike Suffoletto (Web), Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo, MCSBA Past President John Piper (Pen), and Monroe County Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Mendoza at the Executive Committee meeting.

# East Irondequoit hosts NSBA

The East Irondequoit Central School District was one of two locations nation-wide selected to host a National School Boards Association (NSBA) Technology Site Visit.

EICSD was chosen because of the innovative ways they have approached the introduction of technology into its schools. Nearly 100 educators from around the country took advantage of the opportunity, spending one day touring schools and going inside classrooms to see firsthand how teachers and students are using iPads and laptops to transform teaching and learning.

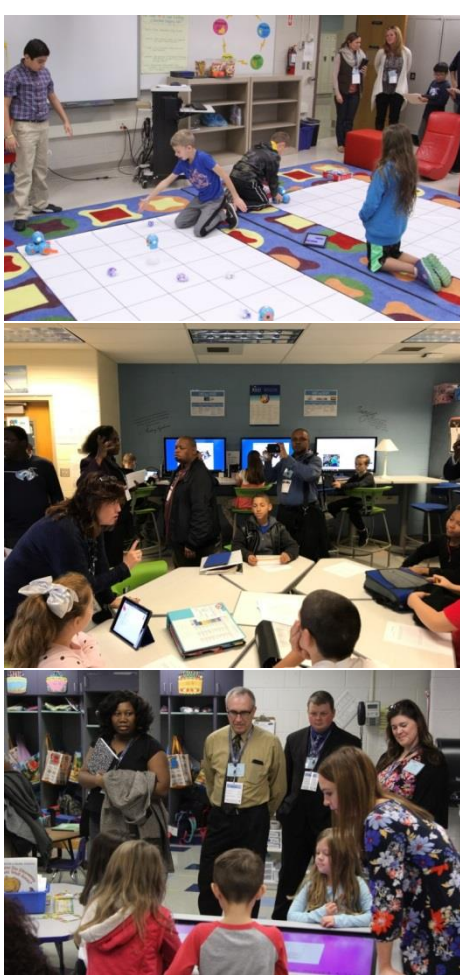
They also had the opportunity to see some of the district's new classrooms of the future. These classrooms are set up in a way to promote individual learning styles, collaboration and student centered learning.

The second day of the visit consisted of breakout sessions so that the visitors could get more detailed information about what they had seen in the schools the day before and some of the different approaches that have been taken. Most of these sessions were conducted by East Irondequoit teachers and staff.

EICSD has emerged as a leader in digital conversion since it first began the transition in 2013. All K-8 students in the district are provided with an iPad. Once they get to ninth grade they receive a laptop.

To learn more, contact Dave Yates, East Irondequoit Director of Communications, At 585-339-1231w, 585-469-8809c, or [David\\_Yates@eastiron.monroe.edu](mailto:David_Yates@eastiron.monroe.edu).

LEFT: The pictures show NSBA visitors on tour in East Irondequoit schools.



## Remembering Charter Member Betty Frey

Former Greece and BOCES 2 board of education member Elizabeth (Betty) Frey died on November 5 at age 90. Betty served on the Greece Board from 1964-1974, and on the Monroe 2 -Orleans Board from 1978 – 1991, as well as many other boards at local, state, and national levels. As a member of the Greece School Board she was a Charter Member of MCSBA when it was formed in 1970.



## COAC develops talking points on tax levy cap

The COAC (Communications Outreach Advisory Committee) met on November 1 to develop talking points on the tax levy cap. Senator Majority Leader John Flannigan would like to make the cap permanent so the COAC met to consider how to help board members to better understand the tax levy cap and its consequences for school districts so they can speak to constituents on the issue. These talking points are found on page 11.



ABOVE: John Piper (Pen), Mike Suffoletto (Web), Kim McCluski (Pit), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Lynn Fulmore (CC), Ken Graham (RH), Mark Kokanovich (Bri), and Joanne Antonacci (B2). Not pictured: Sue Casey (Web), Lisa Ireland (Bro), Tom Abbott (Hil), and John Abbott (B2, EI).



# Open House attracts 800



Pictured are some of the middle and high schools girls interacting with RIT engineering students at the November 4 WE@RIT open house to learn more about potential careers in engineering.

Students from a majority of MCSBA school districts were among the more than 500 students and parents from as far away as Buffalo and Syracuse who attended the November 4 WE@RIT Engineering Open House at the Kate Gleason College of Engineering at RIT. WE@RIT is a program of the KGCOE Dean's office, open to all female students in the College of Engineering. WE@RIT aims to increase the representation of women in engineering and prepare women for leadership roles within the engineering profession.

Those who participated were able to meet with RIT engineering students who hosted numerous demonstrations, experiments and hands on activities in the areas of Biomedical, Chemical, Computer, Electrical, Industrial, and Mechanical Engineering.

This open house is but one of several events hosted each year by RIT for pre-college students. Others include:

- \* WE@RIT's WE Explore: April 14, 2018; 9:00 a.m. – noon; for girls in g. 4-6; <http://www.rit.edu/kgcoe/women/we-explore/0>;
- \* Kids on Campus—A Summer of STEAM: g. 5-12; Variety of workshops in coding and engineering; <http://rit.edu/academic-affairs/koc/>;
- \* Bioscience Exploration for Middle and High School Students: Variety of sessions about medicine, diseases and sustainability; <http://www.rit.edu/healthsciences/cbet/camps.php>;
- \* RoboCamp: Hands on activities in the robotics field including motors, sensors and programming; <https://robocamp.rit.edu/>
- \* Summer Math Applications in Science with Hands-On (SMASH): Girls-only camp focusing on building confidence and interest in math and science through hands on activities; <https://www.rit.edu/castle/programs/smash/overview>.

To learn more about WE@RIT and its events for middle and high school girls, visit <https://www.rit.edu/kgcoe/women/>, or contact Kathy Ehrlich-Scheffer, Director, WE@RIT, at 585-475-7028 or [kgcoewie@rit.edu](mailto:kgcoewie@rit.edu).

# Children's Institute introduces its



ABOVE: Elizabeth Devaney, SEL Center Director, with Dr. Dirk Hightower, Children's Institute Executive Director and Senior Research Associate at the University of Rochester.

After a decade or more of investigating SEL and initiating SEL training programs in our region, the Children's Institute has created a Social & Emotional Learning Center to oversee its efforts to enable all children to receive SEL instruction and support. Research has demonstrated the value of SEL for all children across the developmental spectrum, and how it relates to other movements in education and child well-being.

**SEL, when instituted districtwide, has been shown to transform the settings where children grow, learn, and play.**

## What is Social and Emotional Learning?

SEL is a process whereby young people and adults acquire knowledge, skills, and dispositions related to five competencies (defined by CASEL - the collaborative for academic, social and emotional learning):

### SELF AWARENESS

- Labeling one's feelings
- Relating feelings and thoughts to behavior
- Accurate self-assessment of strengths/challenges
- Self-efficacy
- Optimism

### SELF MANAGEMENT

- Regulating one's emotions
- Managing stress
- Self-control
- Self-motivation
- Setting and achieving goals

### SOCIAL AWARENESS

- Perspective-taking
- Empathy
- Appreciating diversity
- Understanding social and ethical norms for behavior
- Recognizing family, school and community supports

### RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

- Building relationships with diverse individuals/groups
- Communicating clearly
- Working cooperatively
- Resolving conflicts
- Seeking help

### RESPONSIBLE DECISION MAKING

- Considering the well-being of self and others
- Recognizing one's responsibility to behave ethically
- Basing decisions on safety, social and ethical considerations
- Evaluating realistic consequences of various actions
- Making constructive, safe choices about self, relationships and school

## SEL Training Series

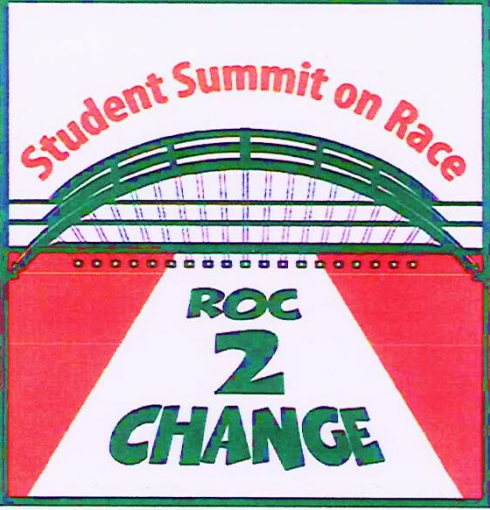
The SEL Center is offering a training series for educators, health professionals and youth service workers during this school year. Each workshop deals with a separate SEL competency as listed and shown in the graphic below and provides practical strategies for teaching the skill. The remaining sessions for this school year are:

- \* January 9 social awareness
- \* February 7 relationship skills
- \* March 13 responsible decision making.

On each of those three days the SEL Center will offer a 3-hour introduction to SEL and readiness to teach it session prior to the afternoon competency workshops.

Each workshop is eligible for three hours of Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) credit for educators. The fee for each three-hour session is \$125. If two or more people from a school register for two or more workshops, the cost is \$100 per workshop (cost for full day is \$200). To learn more, go to <https://www.childrensinstitute.net/sel-center/training>.





Students from 19 MCSBA districts were among the 600 participants at the Fall 2017 Roc2Change Student Summit on Race held in the Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES Conference Center on November 17.



TOP: Dr. Lesli Myers, Superintendent of Brockport CSD, welcoming participants and introducing the program.

ABOVE: Keynote speaker Dr. Cephas Archie addressing students.

LEFT: Some of the 600 students who attended the conference.

The full-day conference, which was planned and led by Brockport CSD students and staff, included:

- \* A keynote address by Dr. Cephas Archie, Chief Diversity Officer, The College at Brockport;
- \* Two video presentations to promote discussion at tables;
- \* Brainstorming by school groups of programs and activities that would raise consciousness in the school community to a point where it becomes commonplace to address racist behaviors respectfully, and encourage students to be more aware and respectful of different racial groups.

The next summit is scheduled for March 23 and will be led by Churchville-Chili students and staff.

# Fall Clerk's conference

The November 15 MCSBA conference for district clerks included:

- \* An update on legal issues involved with creating resolutions and publishing legal notices by Laura Purcell, Esq., Harris Beach PLLC;
- \* Suggestions for responding to difficult people and situations from Ronald J. Mendrick, Esq., Consultant;
- \* Guidelines to prepare for school board meetings from a panel that included district clerks Mary Torcello (CC), Roni Walker (Pit), Cynthia Cushman (Web), and Sarah Williams (Mount Morris), as well as Neil Flood, Supervisor of Security and Emergency Planning (Web).

As has been traditional for more than a decade, the session ended with circle time, during which participants share suggestions and concerns.

This program was developed by a conference planning committee consisting of Cathy Andersen (EI), Cynthia Cushman (Web), Mary Torcello (CC), Roni Walker (Pit), and Sarah Williams (Mount Morris).



TOP: Presenters Laura Purcell, Esq., Ronald Mendrick, Esq., and Neil Flood (Web).  
MIDDLE: Panelists Cindy Cushman (Web), Sarah Williams (Mt.M.), Mary Torcello (CC), and Roni Walker (Pit).  
BOTTOM: Clerks attending the fall conference.

## COMING IN MARCH: Global Citizenship Conference

The Nazareth College Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue will host its 8th annual Global Citizenship Conference, entitled *Love Not Hate*, on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, in the Shults Community Center at Nazareth College.

This conference for high school students is designed to give the future leaders of our world the tools to respond to intolerance, improve religious literacy, and show the etiquette required to work in a pluralistic world. Participating students will:

- \* Become more aware of cultural and religious traditions and belief systems and how they shape people's lives.
- \* Learn about an unfamiliar religious tradition/belief system, helping them to gain understanding and dispel stereotypes.
- \* Encounter a safe environment where they can dialogue about religious intolerance in their schools and communities.
- \* Become more aware of healthy ways of responding to conflict to better promote understanding.
- \* Learn guidelines and etiquette to help them interact respectfully in a pluralistic society.

The conference registration deadline is January 31.

To learn more:

- \* The conference brochure is found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0H8OgiF3iKUZloxMnp2OHlibTzTZE9YnZjTVFQY1VZemY0/view>
- \* The conference registration form is found at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTutdXbcRmUZsBgf4ow\\_NNXAOUkTp0sfUSVBabePez5gA\\_Ww/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTutdXbcRmUZsBgf4ow_NNXAOUkTp0sfUSVBabePez5gA_Ww/viewform?c=0&w=1)
- \* Contact Dr. Muhammad Shafiq, Executive Director, Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialog, at 585-389-2963 or [mshafiq5@naz.edu](mailto:mshafiq5@naz.edu).

