



2018-2019 MCSBA officers elected

ABOVE: Past President John Piper (Pen), MCSBA President Mike Suffoletto (Web), Vice President Kathy Dillon (CC, B2), and Treasurer John Abbott (B2).

RIGHT: Sherry Johnson (MCSBA Executive Director) with Briana McNamee (NYSSBA Governmental Relations Representative) at the May 23 Annual Meeting.

At MCSBA's 49th Annual Meeting in May, members elected **Michael Suffoletto** of Webster as President, **Kathy Dillon** (CC, B2) as Vice President, and **John Abbott** of Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES as Treasurer.

Mike Suffoletto is beginning his second term as MCSBA President. He has served as President of the Webster Board of Education since 2012 and has also served MCSBA as a Co-Chair of the Information Exchange committee, and member the Labor Relations Committee for much of his tenure.

Kathy Dillon has been a member of the Churchville-Chili School Board since 2001 and the Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES Board since 2017. She served a term as MCSBA President in 2009-2010, and has also served the Association as co-chair of MCSBA's Legislative Committee (2002-2003) and the Labor Relations Committee (2004-2005). For the last several years she has been MCSBA's delegate to the Council of Local Governments.

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 2017-18 committee chairs were recognized for their leadership.



Annual Meeting pictures appear on pages 4-5.

News Scope

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

President – Mike Suffoletto, Webster CSD
Vice President – Kathy Dillon, Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES, Churchville-Chili CSD
Past President – John Piper, Penfield CSD
Treasurer – John Abbott, Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES
Executive Director - Sherry Johnson, Sherry_Johnson@boces.monroe.edu
Program Director – Beckie Schultz, Beckie_Schultz@boces.monroe.edu

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From our executive director: Thoughts on Our Independence

As we approach the celebration of our Democracy, I was struck by the report from NYSSBA that votes for district budgets and board candidates have dropped 37% since 2012. Regardless of what might be keeping voters home, the fact that school budgets and board candidates are locally-rooted democratic designs that allow for direct feedback from taxpayers makes this a disturbing statistic. So, I offer the following.



Sherry Johnson

What would you do if it were determined that in this country, only a few chosen people would be allowed to represent the interests of all of us? That those few got to make, unfettered, the decisions about our economy, our health care, our national defense, and the education of our children?

The Constitution of the United States was a carefully crafted document with the direct intent to keep the people's voice in our government. But, the expectation was that those voices would be informed voices. With few transportation and technology options available to the Colonies, it was imperative that those that represented us were well read, capable writers and able to debate intelligently enough on the issues of the day to ultimately reach consensus on how to meet the needs of the greater good. For all that they lacked, our forefathers succeeded in keeping a government for the people, by the people, alive and well. It was, in fact, their greatest concern that the wealth of the few or the risks of Oligarchy could usurp the ideals set forth in their fragile design and so they remained ever diligent.

If we fast forward to today, our transportation systems can get us to every corner of our country in mere hours, yet we are more strangers than neighbors, more polarized than partnered,

more foe than friend. We have the most incredible technologic capabilities, where we can see, in an instant, detailed information on events thousands of miles away, yet we are less knowledgeable, less trustful and less capable of making an informed choice. Why is that?

Are we on information overload? Are we too stressed? Are we not educated enough? Are we just apathetic? We have allowed the wealthiest among us the ability to buy their way into government leadership and leave others out of the process. In a nation that places a priority on equality for our people, we are the most unequal nation on earth. We have allowed those who wish to sow discord and division in order to achieve their own agenda, to chip away at the core of our system of values and beliefs.

We know that others would, if they could, denigrate our power as a world leader and destroy our ability to self-govern. We now have proof that they have and will continue to be engaged to do us harm in ways our forefathers could never have predicted. We have not remained diligent. How did we let this happen?

There are ways to turn this around and they are easy. Register to vote if you have not. Be informed on all of the issues and where the candidates stand on them. Read a lot. Do not use Twitter, Facebook or other social media sites as your newsfeed, period. Fact check before sharing, anywhere. Finally, go vote!

We can continue to allow those few who believe they know better what we want, what we value and what we need to believe in, to make decisions for us. And we can allow those who want to destroy us from within to plant their propaganda. Or we can do what our Constitution demands of us and reassert our rights to be governed by those who represent the will of the people for the benefit of the greater good. It's our country and it's our choice, but only if we choose wisely.

Sherry Johnson

From our president: End of year, start of new year

I am truly thankful to be part of this association, and to be surrounded by so many colleagues who want the very best for our students - sharing a strong commitment to every single child.

A year ago, I stated that in Monroe County, we provide some of the highest quality education you can get in the state. We teach more, we help more, and we achieve more. I believed it was true then and I assert that it is still true today.

MCSBA will continue to provide our members with the necessary tools to advocate for quality public education.

This past year, our accomplishments were many.

*We revised a mentoring program that will enhance the professionalism of our new members, as well as developed a series of leadership symposiums for board presidents and superintendents to help manage successfully the complex relationships of a school board.

* We created an alumni affiliate bringing past members together and successfully held its first activity. More are planned in the not too distant future. (I would encourage all of our retiring board members to consider participating in this endeavor. Just the social interaction with like-minded, student centered people is worth the effort.)

* We updated the Association's Constitution and By-Laws.

* We welcomed Victor into our association.

* We developed talking points and position papers on tax levy cap, school safety and mental health.

* We heard updates on ESSA.

* We discussed topics dealing with trauma, student suicide, anxiety, and the opioid epidemic. We also heard about contract negotiations, employment laws impacting schools, employee retirement incentives, and alternatives to teacher substitute shortage, to name just a few.



Mike Suffoletto

* We continued our advocacy during successful trips to Albany as well as a productive legislative breakfast, and our periodic meetings with our legislators.

The past year was a success - by any measure.

I appreciate the opportunity I've had to serve as your president. And I am willing to serve you again to the best of my abilities.

My thanks especially go to the officers, past officers, and staff members of MCSBA for their much needed support.

I'd like to close by noting that elephants give a new meaning to the phrase "it takes a village to raise a child."

Baby elephants are born completely blind and live with an entire herd of adults, all of whom take turns watching over them. Adult elephants help the mother so she can rejuvenate herself and obtain enough sustenance to provide milk for her calf. After all, I imagine carrying a nearly 300 pound baby for 22 months qualifies anyone for some time off! With the entire herd at its attention, it is no wonder that a baby elephant is raised with such nurture and attention.

Just as the elephant herd is united in this mission, all of us need to watch over our young, not only our students, but also our new board members, to nurture them and help them learn.

Mike Suffoletto



Annual Meeting Album



TOP: MCSBA President Mike Suffoletto(Web) leading the Annual Meeting.

ABOVE: MCSBA Executive Director Sherry Johnson delivering her annual report during the Annual Meeting.



Committee chairs attending the meeting were recognized for their leadership service.

RIGHT: Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Valerie Baum (Pit) and Mark Elledge (Pen).



LOWER LEFT: Information Exchange Committee Co-Chairs Gary Bracken (Spe) and Tammy Gurowski (Web).

LOWER RIGHT: COAC Co-Chairs Kim McCluski (Pit) and Lynn Fulmore (CC).

Not shown are Labor Relations Co-Chairs Tom Abbott (Hil) and Irene Narotski (Pit).

BELOW: Retiring school board members attending the Annual Meeting were recognized for their service. Shown are Lis Ireland (Bro), Sean McCormick (RH), Mike DeLaus (B1), and Lynn Fulmore (CC). Mike De Laus has been a school board member for 27 years, serving on the Fairport Board from 1981-1989 and the BOCES One Board since 1983.



Annual Meeting Album



ABOVE: Mike DeLaus (B1 and John Abbott (B2) in conversation. Chuck Phillips (B2), seated, and Chuck Perreaud (retired WI), standing, are also seen.

BELOW: Webster High School Jazz Combo entertaining guests.

BOTTOM: MCSBA Executive Director Sherry Johnson with event sponsors Sean Phelan and Ben Guotafson of Hunt Engineers / Architects / Surveyors.



ABOVE: Members enjoying good food and good conversation at the Annual Meeting.

BELOW LEFT: Former MCSBA staffers (and school board members) Jody Siegle, past executive director; and Judy Wadsworth, past assistant to the executive director.

BELOW RIGHT: MCSBA Vice President Lisa Ireland (Bro) and former MCSBA President Barbara Cutrona (Hil).



ESSA UPDATE

Those attending the May meeting of the Information Committee heard an update on ESSA policies and regulations from JoAnne Antonacci, District Superintendent, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES; Dan White, District Superintendent, Monroe One BOCES; and Dr. Michelle Ryan, Assistant Superintendent, Monroe Accountability and Assessment Reporting Services for both Monroe County BOCES.

Dan White reviewed the establishment of NYS’s ESSA plan and its approval by the United States Department of Education. This approval ensures that NYS will receive about \$1.6 billion annually to support K-12 education. He noted that the plan incorporates equal access to education for all students as well as performance based accountability.

JoAnne Antonacci described the four “buckets” that make up the ESSA plan and detailed the new reporting requirements on per pupil expenditures by building within each district.

Michelle Ryan described the accountability measures which include academic progress and achievement measures as well as school culture and a wider variety of pathways to graduation. She explained the new ranking system for each accountability measure that will assign schools to one of four designations:

- * Recognition School - high performing or rapidly improving schools
- * School in Good Standing
- * Targeted Support & Improvement School- schools with low performing subgroups of students
- * Comprehensive Support & Improvement School- schools with low overall student performance.



TOP: Presenters Michelle Ryan, Dan White, and JoAnne Antonacci.

LEFT: Information Committee members listening to the ESSA update.



Four “buckets” of the ESSA Plan

- * Accountability- New goals and multiple measures of student success
- * School Improvement- Interventions determined locally
- * Educator Development- More options for teacher and principal training
- * Student Supports- New focus on ENL students and additional reporting for at-risk students.

Meetings with state lawmakers

MCSBA members met with state lawmakers in their local offices in May to discuss a number of issues important to our school districts.

The number one priority was to seek clarification on the APPR legislation that would allow the removal of g. 3 – 8 testing from teacher evaluations.

Other issues included the following:

- * Support for the Assembly minority (Lawrence/Hawley) bill to allow districts to set up a TRS reserve;
- * MCSBA positions being drafted on school safety as well as social and emotional supports for students;
- * Need to remove the tax cap for school districts or provide flexibility to cover all of the new mandates from ESSA and NYS;
- * Funding for several new unfunded mandates in the final state budget -
 - New requirement that all districts provide a comprehensive funding statement for all school buildings to both the DOB and the SED before any increase in state aid would be released;
 - Policies regarding student meal debt;
 - Breakfast after the bell (for school buildings with 70% FRL);
 - Requirement to place feminine hygiene products in all bathrooms;
- * Continuing concern about issues created by charter schools.

Members also thanked lawmakers for the Foundation Aid added to the proposed budget and continued funding for the expense based aids which will help to offset some cuts and stave off the use of reserves.

BELOW: Dr. Ken Graham (RH), Assemblyman Harry Bronson, Sherry Johnson (MCSBA).



Monroe County School Boards Association

RIGHT 1: Richard Cunningham (Gre), Brian O'Connor (Hil), Beckie Schultz (MCSBA), Nancy Pickering (Hil), Mary Caitlin Wight (Gre), Assemblyman Peter Lawrence, Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Casey Kosiorek (Hil).

RIGHT 2: Mike Suffoletto (Web), Debbie Palumbo-Sanders (Vic), Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Sherry Johnson (MCSBA).

RIGHT 3: Kim Kane (EI), Valerie Baum (Pit), Assembly Majority Leader Joe Morelle, Mark Kokanovich (Bri), Kevin McGowan (Bri), Marv Sachs (Bri).

RIGHT 4: Kim Kane (EI), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Ann Cunningham (WI), Senator Rich Funke, Vincent Antonicelli (ER), Catherine Dean (Pen), Valerie Baum (Pit).

RIGHT 5: Sue Casey (Web), Maureen Nupp (Fpt), Mike Suffoletto (Web), Beckie Schultz (MCSBA), Assemblyman Mark Johns.

RIGHT 6: Senator Joseph Robach, Brian O'Connor (Hil), and Mary Caitlin Wight (Gre).



Farewell, thank you to departing members



MCSBA LEADERS (seen above left to right):

Barbara Clark (GC), Vice President 2012-2013, Legislative Committee Co-Chair 2004-2005;

Michael DeLaus (B1), Labor Relations Committee Co-Chair 2005-2006;

Lynn Fulmore (CC), Legislative Committee Co-Chair 2015-2016;

Dr. Kenneth Graham (RH), Steering Committee Member, 2011-2012, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, Legislative Committee Member 2007-2018;

Lisa Ireland (Bro), Vice President 2017-2018, Legislative Committee Co-Chair 2016-2017, Information Exchange Committee Co-Chair 2015-2016;

Marilyn Monkelbaan (Fpt), Labor Relations Committee Co-Chair 2013-2014.

OTHER RETIREES:

Mary Adams (Roc)

Jose Cruz (Roc)

Richard Cunningham (Gre)

Malik Evans (Roc)

Gary Gilbert (Vic)

Joseph Grinnan (Gre)

Michael Guerrieri (Bro)

Kimberly Kane (EI)

William Kent (Web)

Sean McCormick (RH)

Carole Nasra (Pen)

Margy Richards (ER)

Martha Sciremammano (Bri)

Michael Shannon (HFL)

Susan Smith (RH)

Anne Winkley (Hol)

Welcome to new members

Andre Bailey (GC)

Tracey Farmer (Gre)

Melaine Funchess (Roc)

David Ghidu (HFL)

Kerri Keyes (GC)

Nichole La Placa (RH)

Beatrice LeBron (Roc)

Christina Lee (Bri)

Robert Lewis (Bro)

David Metzger (Web)

James O'Brien (RH)

Janet O'Leary-Sargeant (Fpt)

Jonathan Payne (CC)

Natalie Sheppard (Roc)

Anne Smith (Hol)

Pat Storm (EI)

Sherita Traywick (Gre)

Michael Turbeville (Bro)

Michael Vistocco (Vic)

William Yaeger (Pen)



Schumer media conference on e-cigs

U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer held a media conference on May 25 to urge the federal Food and Drug Administration to prohibit marketing of Juul e-cigarettes to minors. The event was hosted by the Webster Health and Education Network and held at Webster Schroeder High School. A number of MCSBA members attended.

ABOVE: Seen at the media conference are Tom Nespeca (B1), Linda Digouardi (Web), MCSBA President Mike Suffoletto (Web), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Carmen Gumina (Web), and Senator Chuck Schumer.