



School finance conference for new board members



ABOVE: Presenters for Financial seminar at their preparation meeting; L to R: Lou Alaimo, James Brennan, Sharon Zacher, Ray Wager, Mark Kokanovich, and Andrew Whitmore.

BELOW: Board President Mark Kokanovich (Bri) discussing board responsibilities for financial oversight.

MCSBA and MCASBO have collaborated to present school finance conferences for 15 years, pre-dating the state law mandating such training. These conferences, entitled Local Policies & NYS Regulations for Oversight of District Finances, have continually met the criteria for approval as SED-certified conferences.

Topics and presenters included:

- * **Role of Boards of Education & Administration in Financial Planning and Oversight** - Mark Kokanovich (Bri) Board President;
- * **Budget Planning** - Andrew Whitmore, Assistant Superintendent for School Finance & Operations (RH);
- * **What Financial Reports Tell** - Sharon Zacher, Assistant Superintendent for Business (Hol);
- * **Checks and Balances to Prevent Misuse of Resources** - Louis Alaimo, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Chief Negotiator (Bri);
- * **Auditor Functions (Claims, Internal, and External)** - Raymond F. Wager, CPA, Mengel, Metzger & Barr & Company, LLP;
- * **Fund Balance & Reserves** - James Brennan, Assistant Superintendent for Finance (WI).



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



November 2018 INDEX

School finance conference	1
From our president	3
One-day advocacy trip to Albany	3
School finance conference, continued	4
Information Exchange Committee meets	5
Labor Relations Committee meets	5
Public Education Week, Part 1	6
Public Education Week, Part 2	7
Ganondagan education programs	8

From our executive director: Now is the Time

Dear Members,

On November 6, we will hold mid-term elections. Typically, the turn out for mid-term elections is low. But, these elections are purposeful in that they allow the electorate to make a statement about how effectively current members of Congress are representing all of us and if they are providing the leadership that we demand.



Sherry Johnson

And just as importantly, there are other elections that allow for the same opportunity; Governorships, State Legislators, State Attorneys General, and Judgeships. Through these elections individuals will be given the authority to make decisions that will impact, not only your future, but the futures of your children and grandchildren, while they are in office.

Regardless, of where you stand with the current state of our politics and those currently in power, now is *not* the time to be silent about that stance. I offer to you what I believe are some important reasons to vote that I hope will motivate you to go to the polls.

If you believe that public education is a right and an imperative component of our democracy, now is the time to elect federal and state representatives that will prioritize funding for public education and not allow funds to be diverted for other purposes.

If you believe that as elected officials you are the leaders of your districts and hence charged with making the best decisions for the community and children you represent, now is the time to elect state and federal representatives who will work to remove the burdens of unfunded and underfunded mandates and respect the local control that is provided by grass roots democracy.

If you believe that access and equity are critical to student success, now is the time to elect legislators who understand that school districts require programmatic flexibility in order to provide a free and appropriate education to every child who enters.

If you believe that all our leaders have the exceptional responsibility to model the behaviors that have made our country the beacon it has been for all people, now is the time to elect only those who have shown that they can exhibit the defined qualities of great leadership: integrity, honesty, awareness, empathy, optimism and inspiration.

If I haven't moved you to the polls, I offer up the words of Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Justice on the Supreme Court, who wrote: "Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on."

Now is the time.

Sherry Johnson

From our president: Board Voting

Last month I had the pleasure of seeing the GEVA production of "HAIR." As much as I enjoyed the play, I was hoping the production would bring me back to a time when I nostalgically believed "peace will guide the planets, and love will steer the stars." That period, unfortunately, was also a time when I truly believed the country would experience another civil war.



Mike Suffoletto

For 1968 saw the assassination of two national leaders; a growing rebellion of young people against their parents values; campus revolts; a vicious culture war over value issues such as abortion, crime, patriotism, freedom of speech and respect for institutions. It felt like the country was coming apart over Vietnam and civil rights.

Many of the questions raised in 1968 – about what kind of country we would become – remain unsolved today.

Sadly we seem to be living in an increasingly uncivil world. From presidential politics to internet comments, there seems to be more and more rude, insulting and aggressive language and behavior in our society. Which is why "HAIR" offered wistfully a time and place of "Harmony and understanding - Sympathy and trust abounding ..."

Yet, it's rare that anyone can escape rudeness today.

Learning theory suggests that leaders and those held in high esteem in our society have a powerful influence on how people behave. People have long taken their cues from their leaders as to how to act.

Thus, in order to improve civility in our nation, we, as educational leaders, must lead by example. [It starts with us.](#) We must be the role models; we must lead by example.

A few months ago our Executive Director wrote about leadership saying, "They (leaders) are unifiers. They understand team dynamics with all of its diversity and they are able to harness that diversity to provide rich debate about where the organization needs to go."

Civility and harnessing diversity of ideas is what I recently witnessed as our legislative committee and subcommittees engaged in a spirited and rich debate concerning the issue of school violence, particularly gun violence.

Even though opinions were vastly different and strongly expressed, each person treated other members in a respectful manner. While there are no simple answers to the questions that were being debated, members worked together to create a "culture" where all interactions were conducted with civility and respect.

The health of our Association is bolstered when its members find a language that is respectful of all. This is a small but important step for thoughtful public discourse instead of the partisan vitriol we see in our state and national leaders. We have the right to be wrong as well as the responsibility to be civil in public discourse. There is still room available for disagreement and dissent in the MCSBA house of civility. Courtesy and civility promote meaningful relationships, communication and cooperation. That is what MCSBA is all about.

Perhaps we can start turning the tide in our increasingly uncivil society? We all can do our part. "Let the sunshine in ..."

Mike Suffoletto



Save the Date!

Advocacy



MCSBA goes to Albany December 10, 2018

MCSBA Board members, Superintendents, and Senior administrators please join us for our One Day Advocacy Trip. We will meet with key legislative and education leaders to discuss our issues.

We leave from the Bushnell's Basin Park & Ride Lot off Rte. 490 at 7:00 a.m. & return same day by 6:00 p.m. Breakfast items and box lunches provided on the bus.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

To register, contact us at 328-1972

or Mary_Talbot@boces.monroe.edu by **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH**. Your district will be billed after the trip.

Finance conference album



Work groups

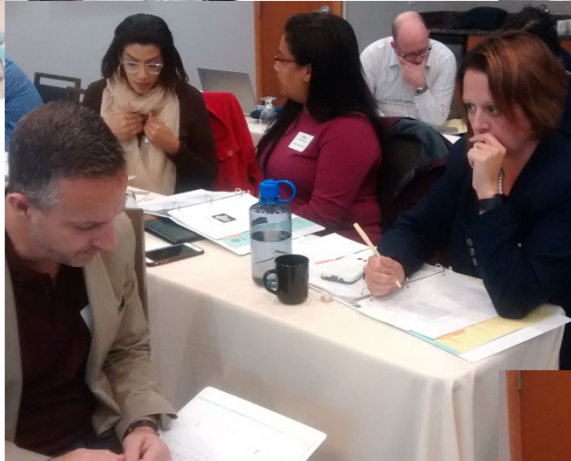
Participants met in small groups to discuss what controls to use to prevent fraud and misuse of funds.



ABOVE: James O'Brien (RH) and Christina Lee (Bri).

ABOVE: Doug Hammond (Dundee) and Bob Lewis (Bro).

RIGHT: Bill Yaeger (Pen), Beatriz LeBron (Roc), Mai Abdullah (RH), and Nichole LaPlaca (RH).



BELOW: David Long (WI) and Matt Metras (WI).

BELOW: Andre Bailey (GC), Kerri Keyes (GC), and Maria Rigillo (Web).



RIGHT:

Back Row- Andre Bailey (GC), David Long (WI), Bill Yaeger (Pen), Doug Hammond (Dundee), Matt Metras (WI), Beatriz LeBron (Roc), and Bob Lewis (Bro).

Front Row – Christina Lee (Bri), Sherita Traywick (Gre), Kerri Keyes (GC), Tracey Farmer (Gre), Nichole LaPlaca (RH), James O'Brien (RH), and Mai Abdullah (RH).



BELOW:

Some of the board member participants at the finance conference.



Standing committees

Information Exchange Committee looks at school safety issues

School safety and security were the focus of discussion at the October Information Exchange Committee meeting—both issues of construction that can make buildings secure and the application of human resources and procedures to deal with specific situations.

Mark Esposito, Vice President, and Gary Huffman, Project Executive, both of Campus Construction, discussed hardware options for making facilities more secure.

Neil Flood, Supervisor of School Security, Webster CSD, discussed school safety teams and their activities.

Todd Baxter, Monroe County Sheriff, discussed school resource officers, including recruitment and training.



ABOVE: IE Committee Co-Chair Tammy Gurowski (Web), Neil Flood (Web), Gary Huffman (Campus Construction), Mark Esposito, (Campus Construction), IE Committee Co-Chair Jon Ottney (Pen), and Monroe County Sheriff Todd Baxter.



LEFT: Sheriff Baxter discussing the deployment and value of school resource officers with committee members.

Labor Relations Committee examines recent changes to labor law



How the new Supreme Court Janus Decision and Taylor Law changes will affect negotiations with employee groups was the topic reviewed during the October meeting of the Labor Relations Committee. Leading the discussion was Lynda M. VanCoske, Esq., Labor Relation Administrator, Monroe 2- Orleans BOCES. She noted that because of the Janus decision:

- * The union's duty of fair representation to non-union members is limited to negotiations and enforcement of the collectively bargained agreement;
- * Unions must provide proof before dues are deducted (preferably an audit of enrollment);
- * Contract language inconsistent with *Janus* is not enforceable.

ABOVE: Labor Relations Committee Co-Chairs Gary Bracken (Spe) and Irene Narotsky (Pit) with presenter Lynda M. VanCoske Esq., Monroe 2 -BOCES Labor Relations Administrator.

RIGHT: Irene Narotsky opening the meeting.



act for Education

CELEBRATING
Public Schools Week
2018

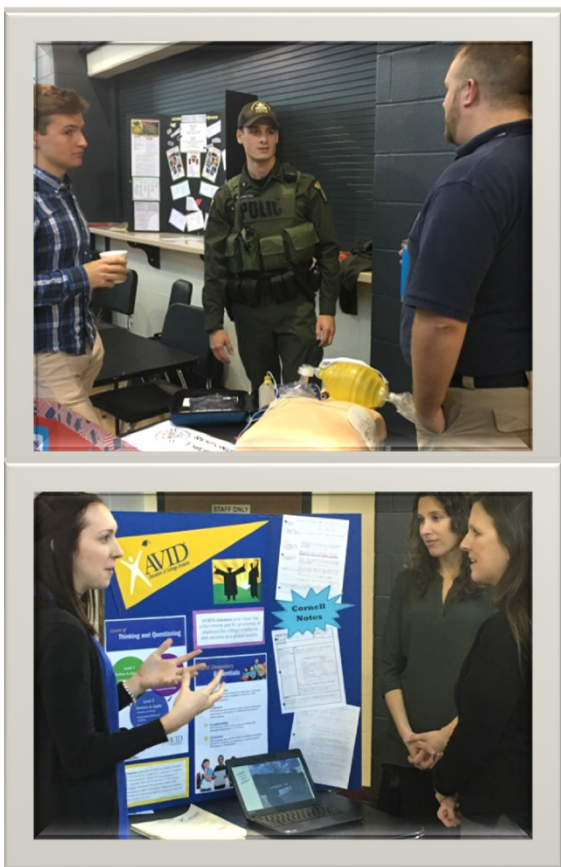
Public Schools Week
is a collaboration between
MCSBA and ACT for Education
during board recognition week
to celebrate the great things
occurring in public schools everyday.

Senator Robach in Brighton



NYS Senator Joseph Robach participated in student-led tours of Brighton's middle and high schools. With him on tour in the photo above is Dr. Kevin McGowan, Brighton Superintendent.

Greece event for the community



Community leaders interact with Greece students and staff to discuss a variety of district programs at an expo held at the district's Performing Arts Center.

Hilton hosts news reporter



Ashley Doerzbacher, 13WHAM reporter, visits WAVE student television production studio and several other high school programs.

Photos and information courtesy of district community relations directors

Assemblyman Hawley in Holley



ABOVE: ES Assistant Principal Tim Artessa, Director of Special Programs Stephanie Sanchez, BOE Members John Heise, Andrea Newman, Anne Smith, Assemblyman Steve Hawley, BOE Member Melissa Ierlan, BOE President Brenda Swanger, Assistant Superintendent for Business Sharon Zacher, ES Principal Karri Schiavone, Superintendent Brian Bartalo, and MS/HS Assistant Principal Dan Courtney on October 23.



RIGHT: Assemblyman Hawley in Holley current events class.



CELEBRATING
Public Schools Week

2018

This celebration extends the work by ACT for Education during the national small business week this past spring, by further involving businesses, legislators, media and others in schools to see how our students are preparing to be successful when they graduate.

Former Superintendent Ross Willink visits Webster classroom



ABOVE: Current Webster Superintendent Carmen Gumina and Dr. Ross Willink (1969-1981 Webster Superintendent), read to 5th graders at DeWitt Road ES; students met the namesake of the Willink Middle School.

West Irondequoit hosts town supervisor and media reps

BELOW: Irondequoit Town Supervisor Dave Seeley talking to seniors in an AP government class.



ABOVE: WHAM13-TV anchor Alexis Arnold (West Irondequoit resident and parent) appearing on Irondequoit HS morning TV show.

BELOW: WHAM13-TV Anchor Alexis Arnold, with D&C reporters Sean Lahman and Will Cleveland (both IHS grads) meeting Journalism class.

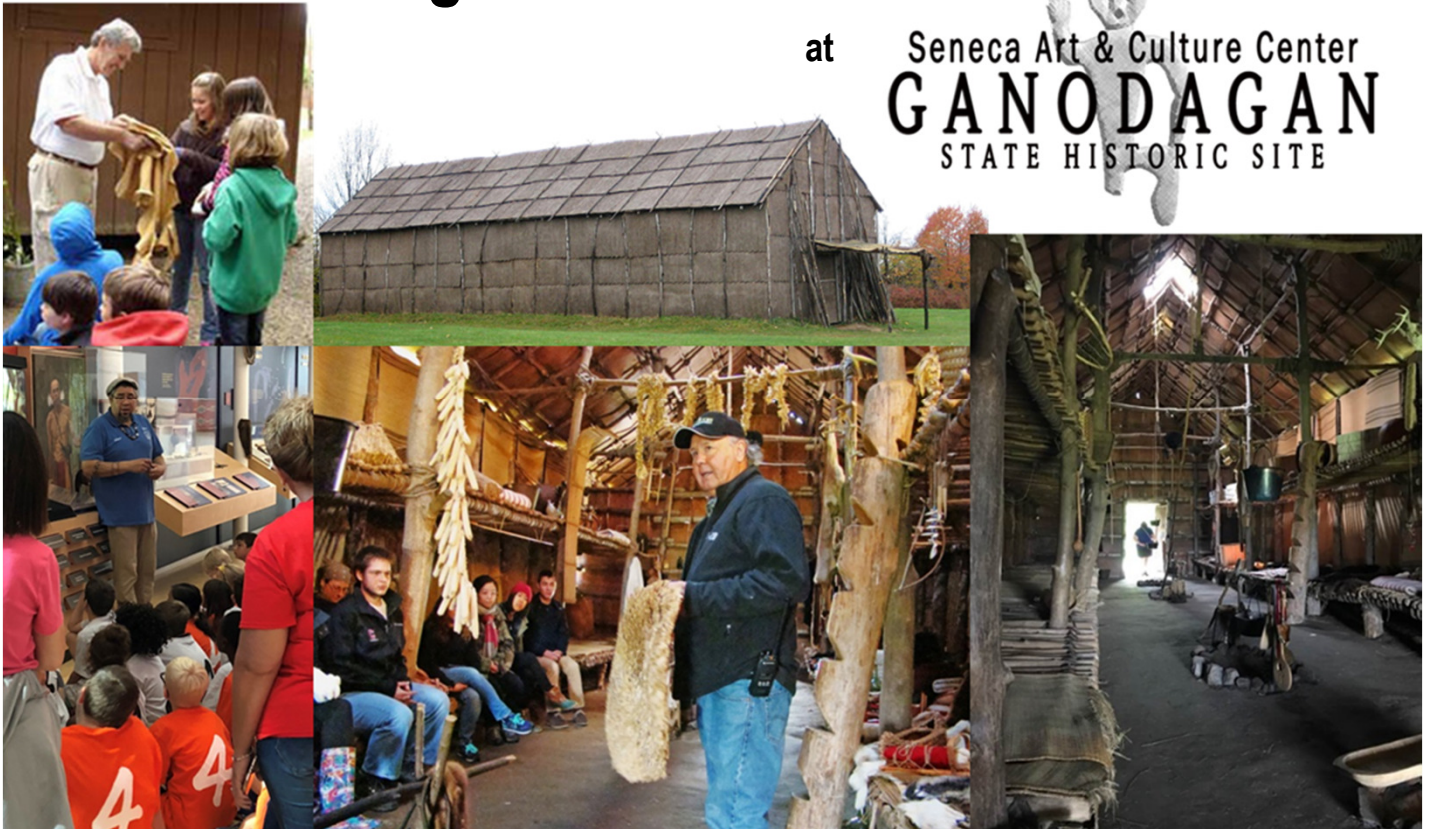


Photos and information courtesy of district community relations directors

Programs for Students and Teachers

at

Seneca Art & Culture Center
GANONDAGAN
STATE HISTORIC SITE



ABOVE: Students with Haudenosaunee interpreters at Ganondagan plus the exterior and interior of the Ganondagan longhouse.

GANONDAGAN PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

Each year, hundreds of students from school districts in and around Monroe County visit Ganondagan, the museum of Haudenosaunee/Seneca Culture. Members of the Seneca Nation present programs for students of all ages in the new museum and/or the authentic longhouse replication.

For those who cannot visit Ganondagan, interpreters will come to classrooms to present a program, or lead virtual tours for classes via Skype or Zoom. Either at Ganondagan or in their own classrooms, students can learn about the formation of the Haudenosaunee/Seneca Culture, including the importance of the Bark Longhouse to everyday life in the 1600s. Interpreters use a variety of items from the Bark Longhouse such as furs, felt hats, bone tools, cornhusk items, wooden bowls and spoons with the clan symbols and trade items. Other classroom programs explain the uses of the Whitetail Deer and the importance of corn to the Hodinöhsö:ni' peoples. Primary level students can participate in the museum's "A Bag of Stories Workshop." They will make their own felt storyteller's pouch and have a memento to put inside it to remind them of the stories that they heard during the program. The "Storytellers Circle" Program demonstrates the power of stories to educate and excite learners of all ages. More information about class visits is accessible at <http://ganondagan.org/Visit/Groups-Guided-Tours>

Schools can directly set-up a session with Ganondagan that they can have on site or at their own school. The Connect Kids Field Trip Grant covers both our field trip admission fees and bus transportation to districts that include Title I schools. More information can be found at: <https://parks.ny.gov/environment/connect-kids/grant-program.aspx>

GANONDAGAN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATORS

The First Voice Interpreters of Ganondagan present workshops to help educators better understand Seneca life and the meaning of stories of the Hodinöhsö:ni' through in-service programs.

The "Onöndowa'ga:" (People of the Great Hill) Program gives educators a deeper understanding of the Hodinöhsö:ni' Confederacy and the formation of the Six Nation's League of the Iroquois. Clan systems, social life, stereotypes and current issues are discussed. Participants are encouraged to submit a list of questions prior to the workshop to make the two hour program more meaningful and useful.

To learn more about any of these learning opportunities, contact Rebekah Stormm-Reitter at 585-398-6178 or rebekah.stormm-reitter@parks.ny.gov or visit the Ganondagan website at <http://ganondagan.org/Visit/Educational-Outreach>.