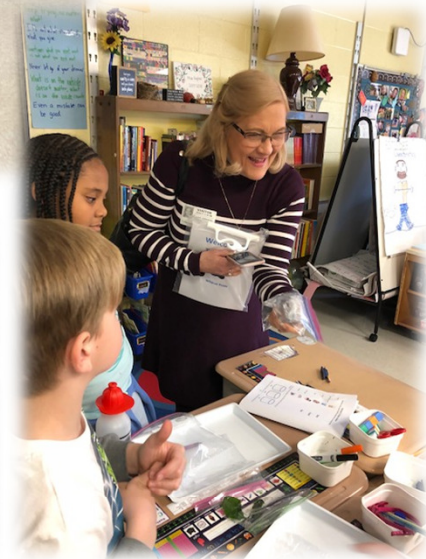
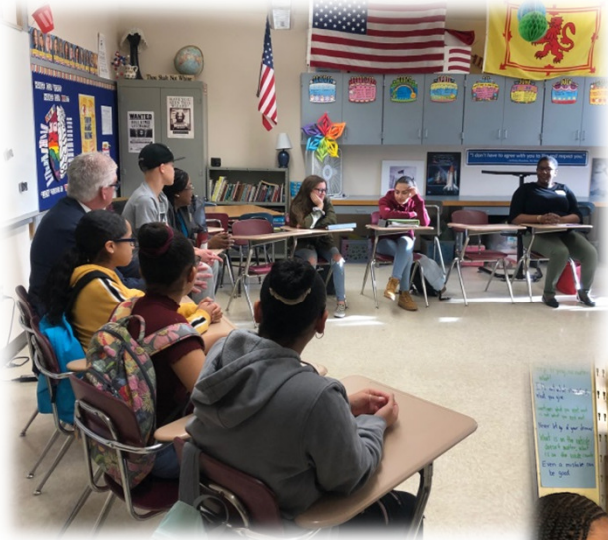


ACT for Education celebrating Public Schools Week



Member MCSBA districts held a number of special events to commemorate Public Schools Week, March 25 – 29.
Pictured here are participants in some of those activities.
See page 2 for more information.



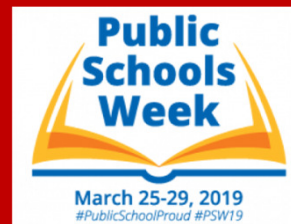
President – Mike Suffoletto, Webster CSD
Vice President – Kathy Dillon, Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES, Churchville-Chili CSD
Past President – John Piper, Penfield CSD
Treasurer – John Abbott, Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES
Executive Director - Sherry Johnson, Sherry_Johnson@boces.monroe.edu
Program Director – Beckie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

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ACT for Education celebrating Public Schools Week



PICTURED ON PAGE 1:

TOP ROW: East Rochester 8th graders leading round tables with Superintendent Mark Linton (left) and Adrian Hale, Senior Manager Workforce Development and Education Initiatives, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce. Students had read *The Hate You Give* and discussed it during the sessions.

MIDDLE LEFT: John Kucko, News Anchor; Lauren Reinert, West Irondequoit Art Teacher & recent Golden Apple Winner; and West Irondequoit Communications Specialist Jeff DiVeronica; John Kucko discussed his work and how his photography became a business.

MIDDLE CENTER & RIGHT: Sherry Johnson, MCSBA (center), and Rich Turner, Development Manager, Monroe County Planning & Development Office (right), visiting Wheatland Chili 2nd graders during a Project Lead the Way activity.

BOTTOM: Greece focused on its Community Schools so guests could learn the value of the initiative. More than 80 students participated in afterschool activities with community partners during an open house at Greece's Longridge Elementary School on March 28. At the left are student guides waiting to conduct tours for interested adults. At the right are students participating in a karate class led by community volunteers.

Also featured was the Zombie House Program of Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES, which is described below.



Zombie House Rehab



The trades students from the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Career and Technical Education Program have partnered with construction companies to refurbish Zombie homes in the County. The Zombie rehab program is part of Monroe County's 'Make Monroe Home' Project. Students from carpentry, HVAC/plumbing, residential and commercial electrical and heavy equipment operation and maintenance classes are all working on the project.

The goal is to have the home completed by the end of the school year so it can be sold and go back on the tax roles. Shown is the first home they are rehabbing, which is located on Mt. Read Blvd. in Greece. This learning experience was shared with visitors during Public Schools Week.



Sherry Johnson

From our executive director: Leadership Matters

This past weekend, I attended the National School Boards Association convention in Philadelphia. According to their conference book they offered attendees over 300 different opportunities to participate. I chose a variety of those offerings, including topics on advocacy, equity and technology.

In each of the sessions I heard a constant theme. The exciting and successful work being done and shared by school district administrators, boards of education members, attorneys and others was only exacted because of focused leadership. Presenters highlighted directly how this focus led to specific goals to lift student achievement, to targeted supports to provide equity and to make sure that technology was being used as an effective learning tool and not just because it was available.

In every presentation there was a strategic alignment from the Board of Education and Superintendent down to the classroom where teachers and others were given the tools to engage students. At the session where each of the Grand Prize winners for the NSBA Magna awards presented, the Equity Coordinator from the DesMoines School District (32,789 students) was asked why the district didn't begin in the classroom with their cultural proficiency initiative. She was very emphatic when she said; "because leadership matters." She went on to say that the Board and the Superintendent and all of the school leaders knew they needed to model the behavior and expectations first. She said that leaders can't just talk the talk, but they must also walk the walk. Only then would staff and students understand and believe in the importance of the work.

Board service is multifaceted and time consuming. To function as a highly effective team requires collaboration, compromise and care. Showing the way, supporting the work, seizing the whipstitch to make it all happen; that is what good leaders do. This past year my columns have been themed around leadership and engagement. As our year winds down this is the perfect time to reflect. The importance of the work that you engage in can't be overstated. You have been elected to make a difference, to set a course of hope and opportunity for the children in your communities. More simply; your leadership matters.

Sherry Johnson

SAVE THE DATE

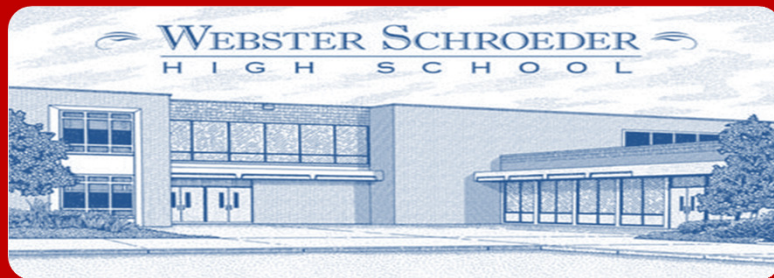
50th MCSBA ANNUAL MEETING



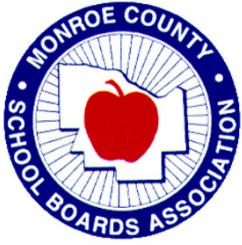
**Wednesday,
May 29, 2019**

5:30 pm

**Webster Schroeder
High School**



**To learn more, contact Mary_Talbot@boces.monroe.edu
or call us at (585) 328-1972.
Spouses are invited to attend at guest's expense.**



MCSBA presents annual seminar for school board candidates



TOP ROW: Presenters Kathy Dillon (CC,B2); Maryanne Chaffee (Hil), Nancy Pickering (Hil), Tom Putnam (Pen), and Michael Looby, Esq. (Ferrara Fiorenza).

ABOVE: MCSBA VP Kathy Dillon welcoming candidate participants.

LEFT: Maryanne Chaffee (Hil) and Nancy Pickering (Hil) speaking to participants.

Sixteen potential school board candidates from 10 school districts attended the annual seminar for candidates on March 23. They were welcomed by MCSBA Vice President Kathy Dillon (CC,B2).

Presenters included –

- * New board member Maryanne Chaffee (Hil) and board president Nancy Pickering (Hil) who discussed board service – preparation time, problem solving, teamwork, community expectations, etc.;
- * Tom Putnam (Pen) who discussed the differences between the roles of the superintendents and school boards, as well as the need for a close partnership between the governance team and district management;
- * Michael Looby, Esq. (Ferrara Fiorenza) who reviewed the governmental regulations attached to school board candidacy.

MCSBA has offered this learning experience to potential school district elected officials annually since the mid 1980s.

Labor Relations Committee: RASHP II UPDATE

On March 20, members of the Labor Relations Committee received their annual update on the RASHP II insurance plan used by MCSBA member districts from Scott Covell, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services at Monroe One BOCES, and Michael Martone, Area Vice President for Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. Among their comments were the following:

- * The RASHP II plan became self-funded as of January 2018 and is now run by a board of directors consisting of Scott Covell, one representative from each district, six union members and a consultant from Arthur J. Gallagher & Co (which has been the consultant with the RASHP plan since its inception).
- * Excellus remains as the plan administrator.
- * The plan's performance for 2018 was positive, due to a good claims year and lower administrative costs because of self-funding.
- * The total rate change for 2019 will be one percent.



ABOVE: Presenters Michael Martone (Gallagher Benefit Services) and Scott Covell (B1) with Labor Relations Committee Co-Chairs Gary Bracken (Spe) and Irene Narotsky (Pit).



MCSBA Spring Clerk Conference

On March 28, Clerks from school districts throughout our region met to consider a number of topics.



Laura M. Purcell, Esq., Harris Beach PLLC, provided a Legal Update on issues including - Sexual Harassment Policy Changes and Training; Document Accessibility-Regulation Rollbacks; and School Votes: Absentee Ballot requirements.

Lynda M. VanCoske, Esq., Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES, reviewed Clerk Salary and Benefit Trends.

During Circle Time, clerks shared interests and concerns, including the following:

- * Budget Vote Preparation – outstanding questions and resources;
- * NING Presentation – NYSSBA's Clerks' Resources – by Sarah Williams (Mt. Morris);
- * Electronic Voting Resources on MCSBA Website – by Beckie Schultz (MCSBA);
- * Whose Role is it Anyway? (Interactive game developed by MCSBA about the roles and responsibilities of the BOE, Superintendent, and Clerk.

The Planning Committee for the session included Cathy Andersen (EI), Cynthia Cushman (Web), Connie Nenni (Hol), Mary Torcello (CC), Sarah Williams (Mt. Morris), and Beckie Schultz (MCSBA).

TOP: Presenters Laura Purcell, Esq., Lynda VanCoske, Esq., Beckie Schultz, and Sarah Williams (Mt.M).

RIGHT: District clerks attending the conference.

FAR RIGHT: Sherry Johnson explaining the "Who's role is it" game.



High school students discuss issues of racism and tolerance



Roc2Change is a semi-annual meeting organized and hosted by and for high school students to explore issues of racism and steps to overcome it. The March 2019 summit, the 8th such session, held at the convention center, was planned and hosted by students from Spencerport High School in collaboration with Rochester’s School of the Arts and School of Inquiry. The day-long program focused on structural racism in terms of economics, employment, health, housing, law enforcement, and education. The agenda included presentations by adults and students on issues of racism, breakout sessions to discuss structural racism, an award presentation, a working lunch to develop action plans, and sharing out of these plans.

At the session, the Princeton Prize in Race Relations was awarded to Kidest Yigezu of Greece Arcadia High School, who was one of seven nominees for the prize from our region. This prize rewards high school students who have had a significant positive effect on race relations in their schools or communities. Recipients receive a cash prize of \$1,000 and an all-expenses-paid weekend to a symposium on Race at Princeton University where they will meet and engage with other Prize recipients from across the country. Prize recipients are recognized at ceremonies in their local regions by Princeton alumni.

Student Summits on Race began in January 2016 at West Irondequoit CSD. Since then, summits have been conducted by students in Penfield CSD (May 2016), Greece CSD (Nov. 2016), Rochester City School District (March 2017), Brockport CSD (Nov. 2017), Churchville-Chili CDS (March 2018), and Brighton CSD (Nov. 2018). The number of students participating has outgrown the capacity of school districts to house the conference, so it now uses spaces like the Wegman’s Conference Center and the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

BELOW TOP ROW (left to right): Student Roc2Change organizers from Spencerport; Princeton Prize nominees with Princeton alumna introducing Prize recipient for our region, Kidest Yigezu of Greece Arcadia; Princeton representative with Kidest Yigezu after the award presentation. The flags seen on stage represent the Pan-African Union, the United States of America, and the Iroquois Confederacy.

MIDDLE and BOTTOM: Some of the more than 500 participants in the March 2019 Roc2Change Summit at the convention center.





RPO Provides music experiences for students

Providing music education to our community is the core of the mission of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO). Every year, over **17,000 students** sing, clap, stomp, dance, and interact with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in specially designed concerts held in the Eastman Theatre, schools, and public venues throughout our community. Of these students, **7,500 are from the Rochester City School District**; 100% of RCSD Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and 5th grade students attend RPO Education Concerts. Students from other districts also attend concerts for a nominal fee. Pre-concert classroom learning materials are provided to enhance the listening experience and meet New York State curriculum guidelines.

Variety of concert experiences for students

Tiny Tots

The RPO Tiny Tots program is geared to preschoolers and kindergarteners. This 40-minute concert introduces children to the instrumental families of the orchestra, as well as some basic musical concepts. Advance reservations are required and are accepted on a first-come, first served basis.

Primary & Intermediate Concerts

The RPO offers field trips and performances for primary and intermediate students throughout the area. Each program is age appropriate, and deals with the basics of the orchestra as well as the cultural influence and history of orchestral music. The RPO offers four concerts to intermediate students in March and two concerts in February to primary students at the Eastman Theatre. More than 12,000 children annually participate in these programs that are tied to language arts, social studies, and other curriculum areas. Admission is free for Rochester City School District students. For schools outside the RCSD, there is a \$5 admission fee per student.

Competitive Programs for Older Students

- * The Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (RPYO) engages student musicians to achieve excellence in performance and cultivates a life-long love of music.
- * Annually for more than 50 years, the Rochester Philharmonic League has sponsored Young Artist Auditions that offer talented high school musicians the chance to perform for professional judges and to win a variety of awards and scholarships and a chance to perform with the RPO.



The RPO also offers smaller chamber ensembles for school assemblies. The schools are responsible for the entire cost of the group. In addition, select RPO rehearsals are open to classroom groups and can be attended for free. Such visits need to be scheduled.

To learn more or to register for concerts, go to <https://rpo.org/teachers-and-schools/> or contact Barbara Brown, *Director of Education*, at bbrown@rpo.org.