



## 2019-2020 MCSBA officers elected



ABOVE: Incoming President Kathleen Dillon (B2, CC), Outgoing President Mike Suffoletto (Web), Treasurer John Abbott (B2), and Incoming Vice President Amy Jo Thomas (Pit).

At MCSBA's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in May, members elected **Kathleen Dillon** (CC, B2) as President, **Mary Jo Thomas** (Pit) as Vice President, and **John Abbott** of Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES as Treasurer.

Kathleen 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.

Amy Jo Thomas was first elected to the Pittsford Board of Education in 2013. She served as co-chair of the 2016-2017 MCSBA Information Exchange Committee and is serving on the Association's Executive Committee as president of the Pittsford Board.

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 2018-19 committee chairs were recognized for their leadership.



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

President – Kathleen Dillon, Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES, Churchville-Chili CSD  
Vice President – Amy Jo Thomas – Pittsford CSD  
Past President – Mike Suffoletto, Webster 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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## Farewells & Welcomes

### Farewell, thank you to departing members

#### MCSBA LEADERS (at the right):

**John Piper** (Pen), President 2016-2017,  
Legislative Committee Co-Chair 2014-2015;

**Maureen Nupp** (Fpt), Information Exchange  
Committee Co-Chair 2012-2013;  
Legislative Committee Co-Chair 2006-2007  
(Maureen will continue as a member of  
Monroe One BOCES);

**Jon Ottney** (Pen), Information Exchange Committee  
Co-Chair 2018-2019.



#### OTHER RETIREES

##### BOARD MEMBERS

Brian Charles (WI)  
Michelle Frechette-Ames (Hil)  
Kelly Glover (GC)  
Brenda James (GC)  
Gary Lawniczak (CC)  
Christy Ann Lynch (EI)  
Linda Monte (B1)  
Frank Oberg (Gre)  
Michelle Rocha (WC)  
Carolyn Stahl (WI)  
Marvin Stepherson (GC)  
Brenda Swanger (Hol)  
Michael Young (Vic)

##### SUPERINTENDENTS

Sue Allen (EI)  
Jeff Crane (WI)  
Dawn Santiago-Marullo (Vic)  
Kimberle Ward (GC)

## Welcome to new members

Michael Bailey (GC)	Mike Grabowski (CC)
Raymond Banks (GC)	Robert LaPlaca (Gre)
Emily Belcer (Pen)	Frank Muscato (GC)
Jessica Krupa (EI)	Christine Brown Richards (GC)
Cindy Dawson (WC)	Maria Rigillo (Web)
Christopher Eckhardt (Vic)	Ninta Singh (B1)
Matt Fink (WI)	Timothy Slisz (Fpt)
Therese Flannery (Hil)	Matt Sullivan (WI)
Calvin Frelier (Pen)	Anne Winkley (Hol)

# From our outgoing president: Thank you!

I am truly blessed and 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. Two years ago, I stated that in Monroe County, we provide some of the highest quality education in the state. We teach more, we help more, and we achieve more. I assert it is still true today. So, I thank MCSBA members for their service to public education and their leadership. MCSBA will continue to provide members with the necessary tools to advocate for quality public education. MCSBA is not afraid to take the lead on encouraging difficult conversations about the challenges facing public education today.



Mike Suffoletto

I appreciate the opportunity I've had these past two years to serve as your president. I have had three years to view first-hand the workings of this organization. My thanks go to the MCSBA officers and staff members for their support.

- This year, our accomplishments were many:
- \* We revised our mentoring program to enhance the professionalism of our new members.
  - \* We developed a series of leadership workshops about managing school board relationships, and we are ready to help any board that needs assistance.
  - \* Our alumni affiliate, which brings past members together, has held a few activities with more being planned.
  - \* Victor CSD joined our Association.
  - \* We developed position papers on supporting student emotional well being and safe schools.
  - \* We continued our advocacy during our annual legislative breakfast and trip to Albany.
  - \* MCSBA standing committees hosted meetings on important issues.

Great leaders know their goals and remain steadfastly focused on them, and as leaders of public education we must continue the good work especially in light of those who wish to "take over" public education. Thank you to all for what you do for public education.

*Mike Suffoletto*

# From our incoming president: Goals for 2019-2020

Thank you for electing me as President of our organization. I've thought for a long time about goals for our upcoming year. I have a few ideas I would like to share with you; if you have ideas for goals please feel free to reach out to me this summer as we plan for the upcoming year.

I would like to suggest two goals that are very straightforward for MCSBA: 1) Form a committee to look at our current dues practice and see if it needs to be updated. 2) Look at our current staffing and see if we need to add support for Sherry, Beckie and Mary.

My other thoughts aren't as clearly defined. I am struck by a quote from John F Kennedy: "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource." As we look to the many needs of our students I think an area of focus should be on school to career readiness. As we all sit at our board tables we should ask, how do we provide opportunities for our students to have experiences that give them a broad view of the world of work? How do we share what we all do with our colleagues so we can improve our opportunities for our students?

Another area that I would like to focus on is our advocacy efforts. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." We believe in our local districts with local control but collectively our voices make a bigger impact.

We need to continue to look at ways to increase our influence as advocates for education. Our organization has an excellent reputation and we need to utilize our power with our fellow elected officials to leverage what's best for our students!



Kathleen Dillon

Finally, I have to say that in my 18 years as a school board member, I have met and worked with a group of amazing people who are professional, continuous learners who give so much of themselves to the districts they serve. They understand it is ok to disagree; they do it in a way that remains respectful and thoughtful. Having said that, we have all worked with challenging board members, we spend more and more time dealing with these challenges. We need to remain steadfast in our approach to these challenges, remain focused on our responsibilities and never forget that we are role models for our students and staff. We have to be so careful with what our children hear on TV and on social media, we need to stay above the fray and set the tone and be an example for all of our districts.

I would also like to thank Mike Suffoletto for his two years as President. This past year he has demonstrated courage and determination, and has been a true leader for all of us!

*Kathleen Dillon*

# 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Album



Shown during the 50<sup>th</sup> MCSBA Annual Meeting are -

TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: President Mike Suffoletto (Web) with Information Exchange Committee Co-Chair Tammy Gurowski (Web); - Legislative Committee Co-chairs Joyce Kostyk (Fpt) and Dennis Laba (B2); Labor Relations Committee Co-Chair Irene Narotsky (Pit); COAC Co-Chair Kim McCluski (Pit).



LEFT: President Mike Suffoletto in the center with members retiring from their boards – Frank Oberg (Gre), Brian Charles (WI), Past President John Piper (Pen), and Maureen Nupp, who is retiring from the Fairport Board and remaining on the BOCES 1 Board.

BELOW LEFT; Brian Charles (WI), Chuck Perreaud (Past President, former West Irondequoit Board Member), and Bob Dickson (B1).



BOTTOM ROW:  
Past President John Piper (Pen), Nominating Committee Chair, presenting the slate of officers for 2019-2020.

Newly Elected 2019-2020 President Kathleen Dillon (B2, CC) sharing her goals for the coming school year.

Outgoing President Mike Suffoletto (Web) with recognition plaque presented to him by Incoming President Kathleen Dillon (B2, CC).



# 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Album



ABOVE: Maureen Nupp (B1, Fpt), Brett Provenzano (Fpt), Margaret Cardona (Fpt), and Joyce Kostyk (Fpt).

IN RIGHT-HAND COLUMN –  
TABLE 4: Tom Putnam (Pen), John Piper (Pen), Mark Elledge (Pen), and Tim DeLucia (Vic).



TABLE 10: Casey Kosiorek (Hil), Nancy Pickering (Hil), and Maryanne Chaffee (Hil).



TABLE 6: Jo Anne Antonacci (B2), Dennis Laba (B2), George Howard (B2), and Bob Dickson (B1).

TABLE 8: Mary Caitlin Wight (Gre), Kathleen /Graupman (Gre), Frank Oberg (Gre), and Terry Melore (Gre).



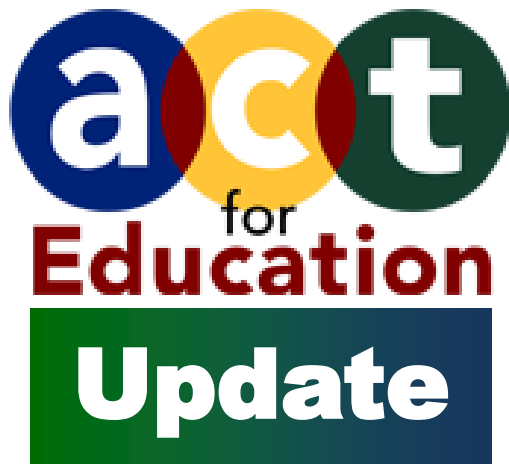
TABLE 2: Kerri Keyes (GC), Frank Muscato (GC), and Jeffrey Pettenski (GC).

BOTTOM: (With back to camera) Amy Jo Thomas (Pit), Kim McCluski (Pit), and Michael Pero (Pit).

BELOW: Sean Phalen (Hunt Engineers) and Sherry Johnson (MCSBA). Hunt Engineers sponsors our annual meeting each year.



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# act for Education Update



ABOVE: The prestigious 2019 CAUSEWAVE (Former Ad Council) W.B. Potter Founder's Award which was presented to ACT for Education in recognition of its success in bringing a results-oriented initiative that filled a community need.



At the MCSBA Annual Meeting, District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci (B2), seen at the right, updated members on activities of ACT for Education (A Community Together for Education) this past school year. Among the changes are an updated website and new posters in various sizes for standing on the floor or on tables. These posters are available for use by districts.

Check out the updated website at <https://actforeducation.org/>. To learn more, contact ACT for Education by email at <https://actforeducation.org/about-us>.

### Our Mission

*A Community Together (ACT) for Education is an unprecedented initiative by public schools in the Monroe 1 and Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES districts, RCSD, area businesses, and community members. With a unified voice, ACT for Education delivers positive messaging about our local school districts and encourages community support of public education.*

The ACT for Education collaboration includes school districts, area businesses, organizations, and community members that delivers a unified positive message about public schools and their impact.

Among ACT for Education accomplishments are the creation of a speakers bureau, the promotion of Public Schools Week and National Public Schools Week. ACT for Education is a sponsor of the ROC2Change Student Summits on Race.

## 2019 GVASCD awards

On May 9, regional educators gathered at the 2019 Genesee Valley Chapter NYS ASCD Annual Awards Banquet to honor three exemplary Educational leaders. The GVASCD awards are one way of recognizing emerging and established educational leaders and sharing their exemplary practices with the education community. Every year, the Genesee Valley ASCD selects three winners through a nominations' process.



ABOVE: Robert McKeveny, Seneca Falls Central School District Superintendent, recipient of Sister Edwardine Weaver Service Award; Cara Montrois, Wheatland-Chili Central School District Teacher Center Director, recipient of the Curriculum Leader Award; and Melanie Ward, Pittsford Central School District Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, recipient of the Supervision Award.



LEFT: GVASCD Co-Presidents Lori Orologio (CC) and Jo Anne Antonacci (B2) at the Awards Banquet.

# Meeting with NYS lawmakers

In May, representatives of MCSBA districts met with members of the Assembly—Harry Bronson, Marjorie Byrnes, David Lawrence, and Jamie Romeo—to discuss legislative issues of concern to public school district leaders. Among those issues were:

- Potential legislation permitting districts to require 5-year-olds to attend kindergarten;
- The fiscal climate in New York State and possibility of midyear cuts in state aid;
- The need for adequate Foundation Aid now that the tax cap is permanent;
- Changes to election law that mandates time off for registered voters;
- Support for a bill that extends the ability of BOCES to lease real property;
- Need to provide clarity to citizens regarding changes to STAR credit and STAR property tax exemption.



TOP: Sherita Traywick (Gre), Assemblyman Peter Lawrence, Beckie Schultz (MCSBA).

ABOVE: Sharita Traywick (Gre), Bob Cook (RH), Assemblyman Harry Bronson, Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), and Kathleen Dillon (B2, CC).

LEFT (clockwise): Mat Metras (WI), Valerie Baum (Pit), Aaron Johnson (WI), Assemblywoman Jamie Romeo, Karen Hatch (Bri), Sherita Traywick (Gre), Kevin McGowan (Bri), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA).

# Public Education – The Federal Role: Support, Not Governance



Updated April 2019

## In keeping with the United States Constitution:

- ★ Authority for public education rests at the state level.
- ★ Local school boards must have final responsibility and freedom in the design and implementation of programs, assessment and evaluations.
- ★ The principle of separation of church and state must be maintained.

## Federal Involvement in Public Education prior to 2001:

- ★ Focused on overcoming inequities that state and local government lacked the resources to address:
- ★ Supplemented local revenues to mitigate the impact of poverty (ESEA).
- ★ Ensured access to education for students with disabilities (IDEA).

## Congress must end its overreach and return education to local control.

	CURRENT ISSUE	NEEDED CORRECTIONS
FUNDING	<p><b>Any federal legislation not fully funded should be in the form of a recommendation not a mandate.</b></p> <p>In NYS, the now permanent Tax Levy Cap and revenue structures for school districts, do not provide a mechanism to absorb costs associated with unfunded or under funded legislation.</p> <p>State and local income taxes (SALT) deductions will now be limited to \$10,000 and further restrict a community's ability to fund support for important programing utilized by our most vulnerable students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Funding needs to be provided to support implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I and Title II funds are critical as districts support students and staff through the transition to new standards and accountability measures.</li> <li>✓ IDEA funding needs to be increased; the current level of 15% or roughly \$1760/ student, is far short of the original appropriation of 40%.</li> <li>✓ Funding is also needed for students entering school as English language learners, who may or may not have interrupted learning due to traumatic experiences prior to arriving in NYS.</li> <li>✓ Charter schools continue to drain critical resources from public schools. If federal support for charters continues, regulations need to be implemented to ensure independence among all interested parties and greater transparency and accountability with regard to use of public funds.</li> </ul>
IDEA	<p><b>The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act needs to be reauthorized and bipartisan IDEA Full Funding Act (S.866 and H.R. 1878) needs to be passed. IDEA was last authorized in 2004.</b></p> <p>While student enrollment is declining in locally, the percentage of students with recognized disabilities and complex needs in the overall population has increased significantly. IDEA currently protects the rights and invests in the potential of 500,00 students and preschoolers with disabilities in NYS.</p> <p>Full Funding is needed to meet these demands and allow Boards of Education to fulfill their obligation to provide programs that ensure success for all students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The federal government must begin to provide the level of dedicated funding for students with disabilities, commensurate with the vision and goals of IDEA.</li> <li>✓ Federal resources are needed to address staff shortages, rising instructional costs and the broad spectrum of supports for students and family engagement needed for students to be successful learners.</li> <li>✓ It is imperative that IDEA funding become a mandatory federal budget item. If not, the current requirements will force schools to cut programs that are not mandated but best serve all students.</li> <li>✓ Fix the "maintenance of effort" (MoE) provision to allow for reduced special education funding where districts can show that making efficiencies does not impact quality of services.</li> <li>✓ Requirements that will involve costly implementation need to be fully vetted with both resource and financial impacts determined, or these mandates should remain recommendations.</li> </ul>
HEA	<p><b>The Higher Education Act (HEA) needs to be passed.</b></p> <p>Nationally growing student populations, needs, and accountability combined with higher educator attrition levels and declining enrollments in teacher preparation programs are threatening to undermine the quality of the nation's schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Title II needs to be strengthened to assure educators receive the tools to be successful from their teacher preparation programs especially special education professionals who are in high demand nationally and face unique challenges in the workplace.</li> <li>✓ The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and TEACH Grant program need to be preserved. School districts rely on these programs to attract and retain effective teachers.</li> </ul>

**MCSBA OPPOSES any funding streams—such as vouchers, education tax credits, and charter schools—that divert funds and distract attention from public education.**