



*Congratulations  
to  
ALL MCSBA  
districts  
with 2020  
budget votes  
on the passage  
of their budgets  
using absentee  
ballots.*

## 2020-2021 MCSBA Officers Selected

During the 2020 MCSBA Annual Meeting which, due to the pandemic, was conducted online, members elected officers for the 2020-2021 year: Amy Jo Thomas (Pit), President; Gary Bracken (Spe), Vice President; and John Abbott (B2), Treasurer. Kathy Dillon (B2, CC) will serve as Past President.

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 has served on the Association's Executive Committee as president of her board.

Gary Bracken was first elected to the Spencerport School Board in 2010 and served a term as its president. He has served MCSBA as co-chair of the Information Exchange Committee for two years and the Labor Relations Committee for 2 years, from 2016-2020.

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.



## Celebrating MCSBA

50 years of serving Monroe County  
school district leaders

Look for this document coming via email soon.

# News Scope

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



President – Amy Jo Thomas, Pittsford CSD  
Vice President – Gary Bracken, Spencerport CSD  
Past President – Kathleen Dillon, Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES, Churchville-Chili 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 outgoing president: What a year!

Last summer, as we began planning for the upcoming school year, we could never have anticipated the closing of our schools due to a pandemic! Our subsequent challenges with budgets, elections, and absentee voting left us with more questions than answers.

Once again, school board members stepped up to the plate and dealt with each challenge as we faced them. Sherry, Beckie and Mary continued to support and advocate for us in many ways as we waded through all of the information that changed on a daily basis.

Our Board Presidents met on Zoom through the month of June. We met with Dr. Mendozza, and NYSSBA administrative staff, and kept one another apprised of our ongoing issues surrounding budget votes, graduation and planning for the fall.

As we transition to planning for the upcoming school year I encourage everyone to keep in touch and remain flexible as we face yet more unknown challenges!

As your outgoing president I would like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow officers for their team work and dedication to our organization. Mike Suffoletto, as our outgoing past president, has been a constant support to all of us. He is thoughtful, with a student first focus putting the needs of our school communities first. Amy Thomas as our incoming President will bring high energy, experience and great ideas to the Association! Gary Bracken as our incoming Vice President will bring a fresh perspective and enthusiasm that will benefit MCSBA. John Abbott, our long-standing Treasurer, continues to provide support and guidance to MCSBA. I truly appreciated working with this great group of school board members.

Sherry, as our Executive Director, has worked tirelessly this year. She has been a strong advocate, keeping in regular contact with our legislators. Her work with the Systems Integration Team has kept schools on the fore-front of decision makers both at the local and state level. Becky and Mary have also worked very hard and kept everything working well in difficult times.

As we work through the many issues this summer, I hope everyone has some time to rest, reflect and enjoy our beautiful weather! Thanks for the opportunity to work with so many dedicated Board members!

*Kathleen Dillon*



**Kathleen Dillon**



The 2019-2020 MCSBA Annual Report is available on the MCSBA website at <https://www.monroe.edu/webpages/mcsba/>.

*From our incoming president:*

# Transition and Change

As we transition from the 2019/20 school year, there are many people I would like to acknowledge. Kathy Dillon, you will go down in MCSBA history as the presidential pandemic leader. As far as I know, you are the only president who has been awarded that title! I am thankful I had the opportunity to serve as your vice president; the ability to glean from your insight and wisdom throughout the year was both valuable and appreciated.

Sherry Johnson, you continue to amaze each one of us with your tireless dedication to the Association and each of its members. You are an ardent leader and ambassador for our collective districts. In addition to Sherry, I would also like to thank Beckie Schultz and Mary Talbot for your unyielding effort to provide each of our districts with support during such an extraordinary time.

I look forward to working with the 2020/21 Officers: Vice President Gary Bracken, Treasurer John Abbott, and Past President Kathy Dillon, on achieving our goals set for the coming year. This will be a year of transition and change. Noticeable change. We are at a critical time in history, requiring each of us to remain focused on the journey ahead.

This is a moment in public education where we have the opportunity to unite, recognize our differences, and come together as a community to embrace the significant challenges we will encounter in the weeks, months, and years to come. We are transitioning from an unprecedented time in history where a pandemic forced school closures, imposed remote learning and impacted the process of our school budget vote/board elections. In addition to maneuvering the onslaught of issues pertaining to COVID-19, our nation is awakened by the tragic reminders of the racial inequities that persist in our society. As we try to navigate our new normal, we need to ask ourselves, how can we become a stronger and more unified voice that will tackle these issues? By working together, by building key relationships, by creating opportunities to listen, learn and be even better leaders and advocates of public education.

In creating goals to best address our immediate needs as an Association, it is clear we have three main initiatives as we begin the 2020/21 school year:

#### Contending with COVID

Reopening Schools (Guidelines from Executive Orders, Department of Health)

Coordinating efforts with Districts to adapt and provide best practices for the new normal

Fluidity with Information Exchange Meetings to address PD needs/developing topics – some examples include:

Cultural Competency in Schools

Equity for All Students

Providing support for our Superintendents (and our Districts) with their pledge against racism.

#### Advocacy

Establish relationships with legislators

Creative ways to develop relationships – build on the work the Legislative Committee initiated last year.

#### Building Relationships within MCSBA

Professional development offerings for new BOE members

Professional development for BOE leadership

Include BOE vice presidents in BOE Presidents Meetings 2020/21.

I reflect on times of transition in my own life, relocations from NY, GA, CA, São Paulo, Brazil, and a return to my hometown of Rochester, NY with four young children in tow: entering each logistical move with an inordinate amount of uncertainty – building new relationships, finding creative ways to adjust to transition, educating and adapting to new cultures, learning a third language, and raising third culture kids. In hindsight, each unknown created a new opportunity. Despite the daunting challenges we face, I'm optimistic this coming year will create new opportunities and windows of hope for a better future for public education.

As I said at the outset of this message, our path forward during this unprecedented time is a critical component of our job as Board of Education members and elected officials. While we must continue to accept a degree of uncertainty, it is of paramount importance that we stay focused on our efforts together — as an Association — to serve our local districts by making decisions in the best interest of all students.



**Amy Thomas**

*Amy Jo Thomas*



# Farewells & Welcomes



LEFT TO RIGHT:  
George Howard (WC & B2);  
Kim McCluski (Pit & B1);  
Dr. Marv Sachs (Bri);  
Fred Shippey (Pen & B1).

## FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO RETIRING LONG-TIME MEMBERS

**George Howard** (B2) – Served from 1974-1986 on Wheatland-Chili Board of Education, then from 1986-2020 on Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES...for a total of 46 years!!

**Dr. Marvin Sachs** (Bri) – Served as MCSBA Labor Relations Committee Co-Chair 2000-2001 and 2012-2013, including many years as a member of the Executive and Steering Committees. He served on the Brighton Board of Education for 30 years.

**Fred Shippey** (B1) – Served from 1985-1994 on the Penfield School Board, then from 1995-2020 on the Monroe One BOCES Board...for a total of 34 years.

## THANK YOU TO MCSBA MEMBER RETIRING & RETURNING IN NEW POSITION

**Kim McCluski** (Pit & B1) – Served MCSBA as MCSBA President 2003-2004; Labor Relations Committee Co-Chair 1998-1999 and 2011-2012; COAC Chair since 2015, including many years as a member of the Executive and Steering Committees. She has retired from the Pittsford School Board after 24 years and now takes up a new role as member of the Monroe One BOCES Board.

## OTHER RETIREES

### BOARD MEMBERS

Raymond Banks (GC)  
Robert Cook (RH)  
Ronald Cooper (EI)  
Judith Davis (Roc)  
Calvin Frelier (Pen)  
Bob Genthner (B1)  
Jody Gillette (Spe)  
Kevin Glover (Fpt)  
Elizabeth Hallmark (Roc)  
Nadine Hanlon (Ken)  
Christopher Neff (HFL)  
Richard Oxley (EI)  
Debbie Palumbo-Sanders (Vic)  
Gary Pawlak (EI)  
Jason ReQua (Ken)  
James Sawers (Gre)  
Janis Strege (Web)  
Michael Vistocco (Vic)  
Mary Caitlin Wight (Gre)  
Lawrence Young (HFL)

### SUPERINTENDENTS

Terry Dade (Roc)  
Dr. Deborah Leh (WC)  
Dr. Leslie Myers-Small (Bro)

## Welcome New Board Members

Ricardo Adams (Roc)	Ryan McDonald (Gre)
Mike Alt (Web)	Dan McInerney (EI)
Erica Belois-Pacer (Fpt)	Jill Ricci (EI)
Rachel Fiskien (Ken)	Janice Richardson (Web)
Susan Gasparino (Bri)	Douglas Rivers (RH)
Shaun Hakiel (Pen)	Robin Scott (Pit)
Bryan Hardenbrook (Ken)	Lori Stone (Spe)
Jeff Klein (HFL)	Trisha Turner (Vic)
Lisa Latten (B1)	Lisa VenVertloh (B2) – Welcome back
Robert Long (GC)	Michael Vetter (Vic)
Amy Maloy (Roc)	Carol Watt (EI) – Welcome back
Kim McCluski (B1) – Welcome back	

## Welcome New Superintendents

Sean Bruno (Bro) – Starting in August  
Dr. Leslie Myers-Small (Roc) – Welcome back  
Lynda Quick (WC) – Starting in August  
Tim Terranova (Vic)



# New School Board Member GOVERNANCE TRAINING

**SED-Approved**

**Saturday, July 18, 2020**  
**7:30 am – Registration/Refreshments**  
**8:00 am – 3:30 pm – Program**

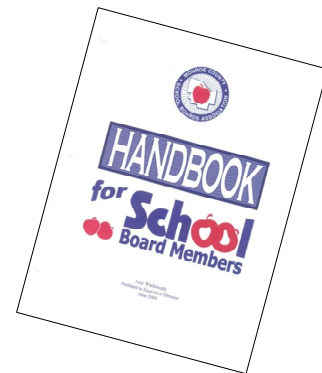
**DoubleTree**  
**1111 Jefferson Road**

All newly-elected first-time school board members are required by NYS law to complete six hours of training on school district governance within their first year of board service. MCSBA has always provided training for new school board members and is an approved state provider of this training.

***Veteran school board members seeking a review of this material are also welcome to attend!***

The one-day program will cover the following topics:

- Powers, Functions, and Duties of Boards of Education
- Role of the Superintendent
- Powers & Duties of Other Governing & Administrative Authorities
- School Board Finance & Business Responsibilities
- School Board Responsibilities for Employee Relations
- School Board Responsibilities as Elected Officials for Communications.



**Registration is required** and includes continental breakfast, lunch, and a New Board Member Handbook. Participants will receive a certificate of completion.

## Registration-----

By **July 8**, phone our office, or mail or email this form to:  
Monroe County School Boards Association  
220 Idlewood Road, Rochester, NY 14618 or  
Mary\_Talbot@boces.monroe.edu

Please register the following people at \$120.00 per person:

Name - \_\_\_\_\_

Email - \_\_\_\_\_

School District - \_\_\_\_\_



**Please note:**

**Social distancing** protocols will be followed.

Attendees **temperatures** will be taken by hotel staff upon arrival.

All attendees are expected to wear a **face covering**.

**Hand sanitizer** will be provided.

Hotel staff will **individually wrap or box all food for attendees**.

# MCSBA Meeting Calendar 2020-2021



## July 2020

\* 18 Sat – 7:30 am **New Board Member Training**

## August 2020

\* 12 Wed – noon Steering Committee Meeting

## September 2020

\* 9 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting  
 \* 9 Wed – 5:45 pm Board Presidents Meeting  
 \* 23 Wed – noon Information Exchange Committee Meeting  
 \* 24 Thur – 8:00 am **MCSBA/MCBA School Law Conference**  
 25 Fri NYSSBA Board Officers' Academy  
 \* 30 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting

## October 2020

\* 1 Thur NYSSBA District Clerk Workshop  
 4-6 Sun-Tues NYSCOSS Leadership Summit – Saratoga Spgs.  
 \* 7 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting  
 \* 7 Wed – 5:45 pm Executive Committee Meeting  
 \* 14 Wed – noon Information Exchange Committee Meeting  
 \* **17 Sat – 7:30 am MCSBA Finance Conference**  
 \* 21 Wed – 4:00 pm Labor Relations Committee Meeting  
 \* 28 Wed – noon Steering Committee Meeting  
 29-31 Thur-Sat NYSSBA Convention – New York City

## November 2020

\* 4 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting  
 \* 4 Wed-5:45 pm Board Presidents Meeting  
 \* 18 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting  
 \* 18 Wed- 4:00 pm Information Exchange Committee Meeting  
 \* **19 Thur-8:00 am District Clerks Conference**

## December 2020

\* 2 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting  
 \* 2 Wed – 5:45 pm Executive Committee Meeting  
 7 Mon -7:00am **MCSBA Advocacy Trip to Albany (tentative)**

\* Meetings held at the DoubleTree Hotel, 1111 Jefferson Road.  
**STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING TIMES MAY ALTERNATE BETWEEN NOON AND 4:00 PM.**  
 To learn more, call MCSBA at (585) 328-1972.  
**Red print indicates MCSBA general membership meetings or learning activities.**

## January 2021

\* 6 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting  
 \* 6 Wed – 5:45 pm Board Presidents Meeting  
 \* 13 Wed – noon Information Exchange Committee Meeting  
 \* 20 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting  
 \* 24-26 Sun-Tues NSBA Advocacy Institute – Washington, D.C.  
 \* 29 Wed – noon Steering Committee Meeting

## February 2021

\* 3 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting  
 3 Wed – 5:45 pm Executive Committee Meeting  
 \* **6 Sat - 9:00 am MCSBA Legislative Breakfast**  
 \* 10 Wed – noon Information Exchange Committee Meeting  
 14-15 Sun-Mon NYSSBA Capital Conference, Albany  
 \* 24 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting

## March 2021

\* 3 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting  
 \* 3 Wed – 5:45 pm Board Presidents Meeting  
 7-9 Sun-Tues NYSCOSS Winter Institute & Lobby Day  
**8-9 Mon-Tues MCSBA Albany Advocacy Trip (tentative)**  
 \* 10 Wed – noon Information Exchange Committee Meeting  
 \* 17 Wed – noon Steering Committee Meeting  
 \* **20 Sat, 8:00 am Prospective Candidate Seminar**  
 \* 24 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting

## April 2021

\* 7 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting  
 7 Wed - 5:45 pm Executive Committee Meeting  
 10-11 Sat- Sun NSBA Annual Conference, Chicago  
 \* 14 Wed – noon Information Exchange Committee Meeting  
 \* **15 Thur-8:30 am District Clerks Conference**  
 \* 28 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting

## May 2021

\* 5 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting  
 \* 5 Wed – 5:45 pm Board Presidents Meeting  
 18 Tues **BUDGET & BOARD MEMBER VOTE**  
 3 Wed - 5:30 pm **MCSBA ANNUAL MEETING**

## June 2021

\* 12 Sat - 7:30 am **MCSBA New Board Member Training**