



## 2020-2021 MCSBA Leadership Team Identified



TOP: President Amy Thomas (Pit), Vice President Gary Bracken (Spe), Treasurer John Abbott (B2), Past President Kathleen Dillon (B2, CC), Kerri Keyes (GC), Tammy Gurowski (Web), Frank Muscato (GC), and Bob Dickson (B1).

BOTTOM: Valerie Baum (Pit), Matthew Metras (WI), Mark Kokanovich (Bri), Nancy Pickering (Hil), Kim McCluski (B1), Amy West (HFL), Kathy Graupman (Gre), Mike Pero (Pit), and Dan White (B1).

The MCSBA leadership team includes the Association's Steering and Executive Committees. The Steering Committee oversees MCSBA operations; the Executive Committee (board presidents and superintendents) votes on any actions taken by the Association.

**The 2020-2021 STEERING COMMITTEE** includes:

President Amy Thomas (Pit),  
Vice President Gary Bracken (Spe),  
Treasurer John Abbott (B2), and  
Past President Kathleen Dillon (B2, CC);

as well as the following presidential appointees:

- Information Exchange Chairs: Kerri Keyes (GC) and Tammy Gurowski (Web);
- Labor Relations Chairs: Frank Muscato (GC) and Bob Dickson (B1);
- Legislative Chairs: Valerie Baum (Pit) and Matthew Metras (WI);
- COAC Chairs: Kim McCluski (B1); Amy West (HFL);
- At-large Board Members: Mark Kokanovich (Bri) and Nancy Pickering (Hil);
- Superintendents: Kathy Graupman (Gre), Mike Pero (Pit), Dan White (B1).

**The MCSBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** consists of member district board presidents and superintendents in addition to our Association officers. The 2020-2021 board presidents and superintendents are as follows:

- |                    |                            |                       |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| BOCES #1           | Bob Dickson                | Daniel White          |
| BOCES #2           | Dennis Laba                | Jo Anne Antonacci     |
| Brighton           | Mark Kokanovich            | Dr. Kevin McGowan     |
| Brockport          | Terry Ann Carbone          | Sean Bruno            |
| Churchville-Chili  | Cheryl Repass              | Lori Orologio         |
| East Irondequoit   | Kim Lasher                 | Mary Grow             |
| East Rochester     | Jennifer Majewski Lesinski | James Haugh           |
| Fairport           | Peter Forsgren             | Brett Provenzano      |
| Gates Chili        | Jeffrey Pettenski          | Christopher Dailey    |
| Greece             | Sean McCabe                | Kathy Graupman        |
| Hilton             | Mark Hilburger             | Casey Kosiorek        |
| Holley             | Robin Silvis               | Brian Bartalo         |
| Honeoye Falls-Lima | Carol Bellavia             | Gene Mancuso          |
| Kendall            | Lisa Levett                | Julie Christensen     |
| Penfield           | Mark Elledge               | Dr. Thomas Putnam     |
| Pittsford          | Amy Thomas                 | Michael Pero          |
| Rochester          | Van White                  | Dr. Lesli Myers-Small |
| Rush-Henrietta     | Diane McBride              | Bo Wright             |
| Spencerport        | Kevin Hutton               | Daniel Milgate        |
| Victor             | Kristen Elliott            | Dr. Tim Terranova     |
| Webster            | Tammy Gurowski             | Carmen Gumina         |
| West Irondequoit   | David Long                 | Aaron Johnson         |
| Wheatland-Chili    | James Musshafen            | Lynda Quick           |



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

## August-September 2020 INDEX

2020-2021 leadership team identified	1
From our president	2
From our executive director	3
Schumer news conference on federal aid	4
Board officers meet via Zoom	4
New board member governance seminar	5
District clerks meet via Zoom	6
MCSBA fiscal training session	6
Fall MCSBA – MCBA Law conference registration form	7
CORRECTED 2020-2021 MCSBA meeting calendar	8

*From our president:*

# Welcome Back, Colleagues

Welcome to a new year! Historically, summer is a time for our communities to relax and enjoy the beautiful Rochester weather and as a BOE member, August is a time when most of us begin to think about the year ahead. We begin building upon initiatives set forth from the previous year and/or goals set by BOE self-evaluations. But this year, when our districts have been working tirelessly since the last months of the 2019/20 school year and throughout the summer to create scenarios to safely reopen schools, one year is blending into the next.

The transition from the 2019/20 to the 2020/21 school year has been a continuum of planning based on ever-changing Executive Orders, CDC guidelines, and NYSED guidance. As Boards of Education, we have the task of ensuring that public schools remain nimble and responsive to our individual communities by helping to plan for the education of our youth. In the face of a global pandemic, the enormity of this task became a reality on March 13.

Pivoting from in-classroom instruction to a world of remote learning was beyond what any public school in the nation was fully prepared to provide without forewarning. Creating an equitable learning environment in a remote learning model without time for teachers and students to prepare was a monumental shift in our educational landscape.

In the face of this crisis and challenge, our roles are even more critical than ever. How we handle this crisis and respond to the challenges, how we interact with our community and each other, how we problem solve with District leadership, and last but not least, how we best support the needs of our students will define our effectiveness as BOE members.

As representatives of our community, stewards of our district's resources, leaders of our communities and advocates for public education, we must be unified in our approach to doing what is best for our kids. This is a time to put politics aside and work together in solidarity as a team, focused on providing stability for our schools during a time of uncertainty. Our collective efforts can be a shining example for others to follow and reflect the genuine reasons we were elected as public officials; to do the right things for our students.

As we experience the final days of summer, each of us should take a moment to reflect on the reasons we decided to become an advocate of public education. Although our landscape and initiatives may have been altered in 2020, our purpose remains constant – to support continuous improvement and ensure students receive an equitable educational experience in our schools. I wish you all the very best as we forge ahead together into the new year.



Amy Thomas

*Amy Jo Thomas*

*From our executive director:*

# Leadership Under Fire

Dear Members,

It is August and you have submitted plans that are the most reflective of what you currently know and what you believe are in the best interests of everyone who will need to work with them.

Yet, because the information is ever evolving and that the final say over these plans is not yours, your stress is unrelenting. On top of these extensive worries, you have no certainty on how you will afford the necessary implementation costs of providing instruction safely in your schools.

To say this has been an extraordinary year doesn't seem to capture all that has happened to date and 2020 is only two-thirds gone. This is the year of the decennial census and a presidential election year. That makes it critical enough. We have since added a devastating pandemic and are, once again, reckoning with the systemic racism that still permeates our nation. All of you, as school leaders have important roles in every area of these current and critical events.

Several years ago, I attended a presentation titled "Leadership under Fire" by Dr. Michael McGough. He used his extensive knowledge of political and military history to share the lessons of presidents and military leaders when they had to make some of the most critical decisions of their careers. He used that information to share with us what he believed, leadership at its finest, looked like within those contexts.

Making a positive difference in the lives of children is the most noble of pursuits and while your work isn't always readily visible, if it is done well, its impact is immense. This year your leadership has been and will continue to be tested, perhaps more than ever before, and you will need to be the finest leaders you can be.

You are clearly leaders under fire. And so, I share some of Dr. McGough's words with you. And, while I can't share his historical references in this short space, I hope that they offer you some guiding tenets and some inspiration. Please know that we are also here to help in any way that we are able.

- Leadership requires both personal and professional commitment;
- Leaders with vision know that powerful organizations seldom stand alone;
- Great leaders know the chain of command, they respect it, and they lead (live) by it;
- Wise leaders never make capricious decisions; they go through a rational, thoughtful process;
- Powerful leaders believe in something bigger than themselves;
- Great leaders put the right people in the right places;
- Thoughtful leaders demonstrate grace under fire.



**Sherry Johnson**

*Sherry Johnson*

## Steering Committee's

## 2020-2021 priorities

At its initial meeting for the program year, held in August, the Steering Committee reviewed the committee's role and identified the following priorities for 2020-2021:

### 1) Contending with COVID

- a. Reopening Schools (knowns/unknowns)
- b. Coordinating with districts to provide best practices for the new normal
- c. More fluidity in Information Exchange Meetings to address professional development needs and developing topics (e.g., Cultural competency in schools, Equity for all students, Providing support to our superintendents and districts with their pledge against racism)

### 2) Advocacy

- a. New relationships with Legislators
- b. No representation/relationships (Senate/Assembly)
- c. Creative ways to establish relationships- Legislative Committee work



ABOVE: Seen at the August 12 meeting clockwise from lower left: Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Amy Thomas (Pit), Gary Bracken (Spe), Frank Muscato (GC), Kim McCluski (B1), Valerie Baum (Pit), Mark Kokanovich (Bri), Nancy Pickering (Hil), Kathy Dillon (B2, CC) Kerri Keyes (GC), Bob Dickson (B1), and Amy West (HFL); not pictured Matt Metras (WI) who attended via Zoom.

### 3) Building relationships within MCSBA

- a. Professional development offerings for new members
- b. Professional development for BOE Leadership
- c. Including BOE vice presidents in BOE presidents' meetings for the 2020-21 school year



# July news conference describes CCCERA

During a July 13 news conference at the Victor CSD Early Learning Center, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer presented legislation he is proposing to give American K-12 schools an additional \$175 billion in federal aid to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$175 billion for K-12 schools is part of the proposed Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act (CCCERA) that would inject \$430 billion nationwide. The package includes support for child care providers, college tuition, and a workforce aimed at preventing child abuse, as well as other aid for education and family health. Since the aid would be based on student population, districts in Ontario would share more than \$30 million and Monroe County school districts would share in hundreds of millions of dollars. Schools would have flexibility in how the funds are spent, as long as they support health and education. Victor School Superintendent Tim Terranova noted that the funds are needed “for school safety and to take the burden off the taxpayers.”

During her news conference remarks, Executive Director Sherry Johnson (MCSBA said, in part: “Amid the monumental tasks before our school board members and superintendents, and the myriad of uncertainties that weigh heavily on their hearts and minds, there are two certainties that they are well aware of - *One*, no matter what fate awaits the plans that they are submitting this month to the state or what September will actually look like for school reopening, schools will need abundantly more resources for instruction and in order to provide for the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students. *Two*, the Governor has promised that there will be across the board budget cuts without more federal assistance.”

“This proposed legislation provides direct relief for those two certainties. This is a comprehensive piece of legislation. It provides support across the spectrum of care, from day care for our babies and young children to our young adults in college. It supports our most vulnerable students as we continue to strive to address equity and access which this pandemic has so highlighted and it holds education leaders accountable for those dollars. We need this to be passed and approved sooner than later. Our district boards and superintendents have worked continuously since school buildings closed in March. They need support now.”



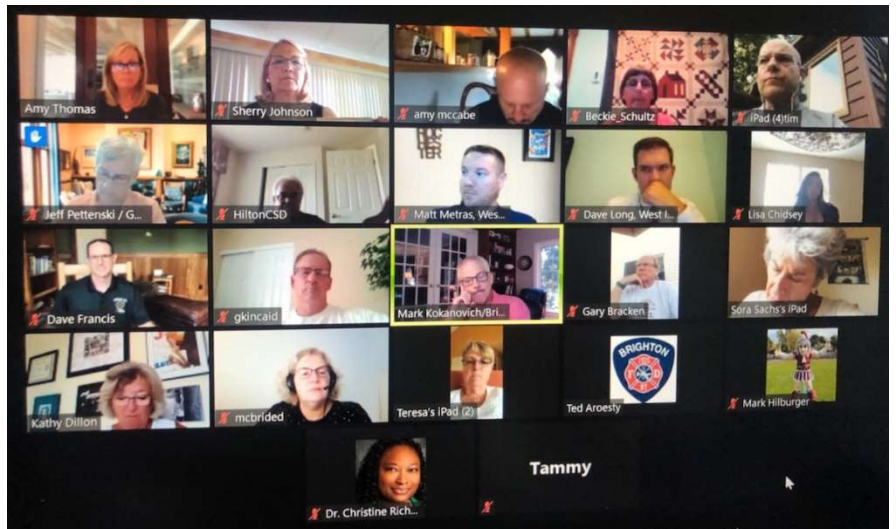
Seen in the background at the July 13 news conference are: Christopher Parks (Vic), Christopher Eckhardt (Vic), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Ontario County Board of Supervisors Chairman (& Victor Supervisor) John Marren, Marla Iverson (Four County SBA), and U.S. Senator Charles Schumer.

Seen in cameos at the top are Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Tim Terranova (Vic), Senator Charles Schumer, John Merran, Marla Iverson (4CSBA), Senator Schumer, and Sherry Johnson (MCSBA).

Seen in the cameo at the bottom is Superintendent Tim Terranova (Vic) being interviewed by members of the media.

## Board officers meet via zoom

On August 12, MCSBA district board leaders (presidents and vice presidents) met via Zoom. A total of 22 people participated in a discussion that focused primarily on school re-opening issues. Seen at the right are some of the participants.



# Governance seminar attracts board members

MCSBA's annual SED-approved six hour governance training seminar, held on July 18, included presentations on the following:

## POWERS, FUNCTIONS, DUTIES OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Board Member Panelists:

- MCSBA Vice President **Gary Bracken** (Spe)
- MCSBA Past President **Kathleen Dillon** (B2, CC)
- Former MCSBA President **Mark Kokanovich** (Bri)
- Nancy Pickering** (Hil)
- Amy West** (HFL)

## ROLE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Presenters : **Jo Anne Antonacci**, District Superintendent (B2)  
**Dan White**, District Superintendent (B1)

## POWERS & DUTIES OF OTHER GOVERNING AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES

Presenter: **Sherry Johnson**, Executive Director, MCSBA

## SCHOOL BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Presenter: **Heather Cole, Esq.**, Ferrara Fiorenza PC

## SCHOOL BOARD FINANCE & BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITIES

Presenter: **Lou Alaimo**, Assistant Superintendent for Administration (Bri)

## SCHOOL BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AS ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Presenter: **Beckie Schultz**, Program Director, MCSBA

TOP ROW: Sherry Johnson (MCSBA) with Board Panelists Mark Kokanovich (Bri), Kathleen Dillon (CC,B2), Nancy Pickering (Hil), Amy West (HFL), and Gary Bracken (Spe).

MIDDLE ROW: Monroe County school board members attending the conference: Rachel Fiskien (Ken), Susan Gasparino (Bri), Shaun Hakiel (Pen), Bryan Hardenbrook (K), Jeff Klein (HFL), Lisa Latten (B1), Ryan McDonald (Gre), Jill Ricci (EI), Doug Rivers (RH), Robin Scott (Pit), Michael Vetter (Vic).



BOTTOM: ROW Dan White, (B1) and Jo Anne Antonacci (B2).  
 INSET CAMEOS: Heather Cole, Esq., Sherry Johnson (MCSBA), Lou Alaimo (Bri), and Beckie Schultz (MCSBA).





# District clerks meet via Zoom

District clerks in our region met via Zoom on July 29. Some of the 19 participants are seen on screen at the right. After a short moment to celebrate their heroic work on the absentee school budget vote and Board elections they debriefed on the vote process. Then Laura Purcell, Esq. led a review of subpoenas, litigations, and appeals. The session closed with discussion of plans for a November seminar and a possible Zoom event before then.



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

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**MCSBA Fiscal Training**  
 Saturday, October 17, 2020  
 7:30am – 3:30pm  
 Double Tree at 1111 Jefferson Road

**\$\$ SAVE \$\$ MCSBA fiscal training is \$120 & includes a continental breakfast, lunch and light snack**

Registration form will follow in early September. While this is required for new Board members, it is a great refresher for any member

**Topics:**

- Role of Boards of Education & Administration in Financial Planning and Oversight
- Budget Planning
- What Financial Reports Tell
- Checks and Balances to Prevent Misuse of Resources
- Fund Balance & Reserves
- Auditor Functions (Claims, Internal, and External)

**SED-certified Conference**  
 Certificates issued upon completion



# Fall Law Conference

## September 24, 2020



Double Tree Inn, 1111 Jefferson Road  
8am -Noon

Please join us for this informative conference developed for  
School Board Members, Superintendents, School Law Attorneys and  
Central Office Administrators

### Agenda:

#### **WHAT THE NEW TITLE IX REGULATIONS MEAN FOR SCHOOLS**

This session will review what the new Title IX regulations mean for schools when a sexual misconduct complaint against an employee or student is made. Practical tips and recommendations on best practices will be included.

#### **Presenter:**

**Gail M. Norris, Esq.**

Bond, Schoeneck, & King PLLC

#### **PROVIDING COMPENSATORY SERVICES DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE: LEGAL AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

School districts are required to identify and provide compensatory services to students with disabilities when necessary to address inadequate student progress during school closure. This presentation will address the legal requirements for determining whether a student requires compensatory services from a school attorney's perspective and provide practical tips for implementing such services from a school district special education administrator.

#### **Presenters:**

**Anne M. McGinnis, Esq. Ph.D.**

Harris Beach PLLC

**Stacey Brindisi**

Director of Pupil Personnel Services,  
Greece CSD

#### **COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ISSUES**

This program will address how COVID-19 has affected the workplace and workforce and its impact on labor and employment issues, such as negotiations, delivery of instruction and staffing.

#### **Presenters:**

**Sara E. Visingard, Esq.**

Harris Beach PLLC

**Lynda M. Van Coske, Esq.**

Labor Relations Administrator,  
Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES

### **YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT:**

**Standard Registration fee: \$100/person**



#### **Please note:**

**Social distancing** protocols will be followed.

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

**Hand sanitizer** will be provided.

Any food items served will be **individually wrapped**.

Mail completed form by September 16, 2020 to:

Monroe County School Boards Association

220 Idlewood Rd., Rochester, NY 14618

Or e-mail Mary Talbot [Mary\\_talbot@boces.monroe.edu](mailto:Mary_talbot@boces.monroe.edu)

Enclosed is a check payable to: MCSBA

Bill my school district (BOE/Administrators)

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

**MCLE credit: 3.0 NY professional practice credits offered by Harris Beach PLLC.**

This program is appropriate for New York experienced and newly admitted attorneys.

Please register the following people:

Names \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

# CORRECTED MCSBA 2020-2021 Meeting Calendar



## 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)**

## 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.  
 \* 27 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**  
**26 Wed - 5:30 pm MCSBA ANNUAL MEETING**

## June 2021

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

\* 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.**