

2020 Challenge & Opportunity



By Sherry Johnson

The Governor has presented both his State of the State and his Executive budget proposal to the Legislature. There is much we are still analyzing, but what is fairly certain is that, once again, you will be asked to provide more, with less.

While the Governor has proposed an overall 3% increase in education funding, the school aid runs tell a very different story and, with expense based aids included in the foundation aid distribution, a more confusing one than usual. All of you know that keeping expense based aids separate and fully funded is critical to the stability and predictability of the revenue that school districts are owed for the services that they have provided to students in the previous year.

We, at MCSBA, will work with you to advocate to keep these separate and uncapped and push for the additional state aid that districts are due.

The CPI number for the tax levy cap formula is 1.81% and there is already misinformation out to the public that boards of education can't exceed this number without a 60% supermajority, which you know is simply not true! This is only one piece of information that is placed into a multi-step state mandated formula which could ultimately produce a tax levy cap below zero or over 3%, or anywhere in between. Much has been done by you and your superintendent to try and educate your community about how this formula works and yet many still believe that if a board of education proposes a budget over 2% they have broken the law.

We will continue to exhort the media to do a better job when covering what the tax levy cap really means and provide you with talking points that you can use to help provide the correct information to your community.

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NYS Capitol Building at right; NYS Education Department Building below.





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From our president: Advocacy Again?

For the last NewsScope I wrote about the importance of advocacy and how it impacts all of us as we strive to provide the best education for our children. Our Association has worked hard to cement relationships with our elected representatives. This has served us well over the years. Our Association is widely respected as strong advocates and partners with our fellow elected officials.



Kathleen Dillon

This year we find ourselves in an unusual situation. Almost every representative from our area in the Assembly and Senate will no longer be in office a year from now. With retirements and people choosing to run for other offices our political landscape is rapidly changing. A new County Executive adds to the uncertainty.

What do we do? How do we proceed forward? Our Legislative Committee had a long discussion about this very topic at our January meeting. The committee decided to cancel our annual trip to Albany and put our energies into visiting our representatives in their local offices. We also talked about how we build new relationships and continue to advocate as we face new challenges. With looming primaries in June and the November election, we don't have much time to develop relationships with still to be named legislators.

Given what we are faced with, our legislative committee will be developing new tools for advocacy. In the meantime, it's very important to find out who is running, reach out and discuss education issues with the candidates. Insure that they are well informed about our issues. Be active at a grass roots level.

We will keep you informed as we move forward into uncharted waters. Thanks for your continued support of our Association.

Kathleen Dillon

Don't miss these February events!

Saturday, February 8

MCSBA Legislative Breakfast

More information on page 5

Thursday, February 13

SED Hearing on Graduation Measures

More information on page 8

From our executive director: **2020 Challenge & Opportunity**

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Sherry Johnson

The list of unfunded and underfunded mandates continues to grow with the promise of more to come with this executive budget proposal. Many of you are working with your districts to put prekindergarten into your buildings even without state funding because you understand the benefit of early learning and your community supports your efforts. You are adding professional development for teachers and staff in trauma informed instruction and cultural sensitivity without state funding because it helps children and families, and you are working without additional funds to enhance safety, security and social, emotional and mental health supports for students. You do all of these things on top of your primary responsibility of educating children because you understand the need to provide both in order for kids to be successful.

We will continue to fight with you against unfunded mandates and work with you to help legislators understand how their proposals impact your local authority as elected officials to make the best decisions for your district and students. We are working with our local and state legislators to advocate for a separate and distinct funding stream for safety, security and mental health so that you are able to provide support services without sacrificing your instructional program.

Every year, each of you commits yourself to the work of providing the highest quality education that you are able in a manner that the community can support. You achieve this by working through the myriad of challenges that are presented to you by the varied local, state and federal requirements placed before you and your fellow board members.

This year, on top of budget challenges, more districts will need to provide financial “transparency” reports for the state and all districts will need to do a building by building per pupil funding analysis under the ESSA regulations. Those reports will need to be explained to the public who may not understand why per pupil spending can be different across the district. We will support those efforts by developing talking points through the MCSBA Communication Outreach Advisory Committee (COAC).

All districts are dealing with teacher, substitute teacher and transportation shortages. Our legislative committee has developed two position papers to address these issues with legislators. Those are working their way through the approval process and should be ready for distribution by the end of February.

The NYSED and Board of Regents have developed regional meetings to discuss potential new graduation requirements. They are inviting those interested in providing input to these regional meetings. Our BOCES are hosting such a meeting at the Monroe 2- Orleans BOCES in Spencerport on February 13. Regent Wade Norwood will be at that meeting to help facilitate the conversation. See the meeting announcement included on page 8.

And finally, this year will be the decennial Census. Without an accurate count, all of our districts will not receive the funding they are entitled to in order to help all kids achieve. With 90% of all domestic funding from the federal government tied to the census and the current state aid formula also using such data, it is imperative that your community understand the need to accurately fill out the census form this spring. Your schools are a trusted entity by the community and your voice as a community leader can make a difference. Any opportunity you can provide to community members in getting an accurate count will be important.

These are a lot of challenges. But, all of these are also important opportunities to communicate back to your constituents the importance of the work that you do and how it impacts student success.

I try to always end these messages with a thank you for the work that you do because I believe that you don't hear it enough. The work you do is hard, it can be frustrating and it is easy to get cynical when year after year needed change doesn't happen or happen at the rate we believe it should. But, every year, a new generation of children walk through your doors and you and your fellow board members get to make a positive difference in their lives. I can't think of any greater endeavor than that.

Sherry Johnson

Restorative practices help students

At the January meeting of the Information Exchange Committee, members heard about Partners in Restorative Practices from Dr. Marijo Pearson from Monroe 2 - Orleans BOCES and Shira May and Mahreen Mustafa George from Partners in Restorative Practices (PiRP).

Shira May noted restorative practices lessen the likelihood that wrongdoing will occur and make it more likely wrongdoing can be repaired when it does occur. Restorative practices are both proactive (relational practices) and reactive (problem solving circles and restorative conferences). The practices encourage students while promoting limit setting and accountability.

Marijo Pearson shared how BOCES supports implementation of restorative practices through coordination and evaluation of the program. BOCES offers training in all levels of the practices in coordination with PiRP. Typical implementation occurs in a 3-year process.



ABOVE: Dr. Marijo Pearson (B2) and Shira May (PiRP) with Information Exchange Committee Co-Chairs Valerie Baum (Pit), Nancy Pickering (Hil).

BELOW: Participants in Information Exchange Committee discussion.



ABOVE: Panelists Michaela Perrotto (GC) and Michael Leone (Pit); Labor Relations Committee Co-Chairs Gary Bracken (Spe) and Amy West (HFL); and Panelists Jerilee DiLalla (Bro) and Patrick McCue (RH).



Staffing issues

A panel of Human Services Directors from member districts discussed current hiring issues. Panelists included Jerilee DiLalla Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources (Bro); Michael Leone Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources (Pit); Patrick McCue, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent Human Resources & Strategic Initiatives (RH); and Michaela Perrotto Assistant Superintendent Human Resources & Labor Relations (GC).

The Human Resource Directors discussed recruitment and hiring in a competitive market. Specific topics addressed included:

- * Teacher recruitment & retention
- * Limited hiring pools for classified positions
- * Wage compression and regulations
- * Diversifying the workforce.

LEFT: Those attending the January Labor Relations Committee meeting to learn about the staffing crisis from Human Relations directors.

Resources on personal safety for children

At a special meeting of the Information Exchange Committee on January 29, representatives of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)—Ed Suk, New York Executive Director, and Debra Ortiz-Pardi, Community Outreach Manager—described free services and educational content provided to educators by his Center.

The mission of NCMEC is three fold; finding missing children, reducing child sexual exploitation and reducing future victimization through education and training. In NYS, the organization does 1000 programs per year, on child safety, KIDS SMART digital resources, Net Smartz Workshops and digital resources, community displays and child finger printing. Programs cover K-12.



Above: Debra Ortiz-Pardi and Ed Suk of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children with Information Exchange Committee Co-Chair Valerie Baum (Pit).

It was noted that travel to and from school activities is a vulnerable time frame for children so children should be taught strategies for escaping potential abductions and awareness of online exploiters.

The Center has a mechanism to track exploitive images sent between students and a group of volunteers who work with families to get pictures taken down and deal with the related trauma from such incidents.

Participants received free resources for schools and families and were shown online resources.

The handouts are available in the MCSBA office and a videotape of the meeting is posted on the MCSBA website. Educational materials are free and available through the NCMEC website.



MCSBA Legislative Breakfast

*Join colleagues to share our message
with government officials
at the County, State, and Federal levels*

**Saturday, February 8
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
DoubleTree Inn**

**To register,
585-328-1972
Email Mary_Talbot@boces.monroe.edu.**

MAG Legislative Breakfast

On December 13, MCSBA Executive Director Sherry Johnson and Program Director Beckie Schultz attended a Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Memorial Art Gallery (MAG). MAG presenters discussed the group's strategic plan and thanked lawmakers for their help in securing grants that allow MAG to continue its offerings in a way that is more inclusive of our entire community. They highlighted efforts to make the museum more accessible to diverse audiences such as those with dementia, blindness, or deafness. They also showcased two projects in the gallery after the presentation. One was a recreation of graffiti art in the old subway/canal tunnel in Rochester. The other was an exhibit of works by deaf artists, which is the first such exhibit in a general art museum. Their hope is other art museums will follow suit.

MAG is continuing the RCSD Expanded Learning Collaboration that bring 450 students from Rochester schools to the museum once every eight weeks to reinforce classroom learning that includes visits from MAG collections, and opportunities for hands-on art projects in the MAG Creative Workshop. They also provide staff development opportunities for teachers regarding gallery exhibits.



TOP: Laurie Chiumento, U of R legislative liaison with Sherry Johnson; Margaret Burns with NYS Senator Joseph Robach; and US Senator Charles Schumer chief of staff Chris Zeltmann with a participant.
 BOTTOM: Assemblyman Mark Johns with others; Assemblyman Harry Bronson with a featured graffiti artist; and Mark Johns with participants.

MCSBA affiliates meet at GEVA



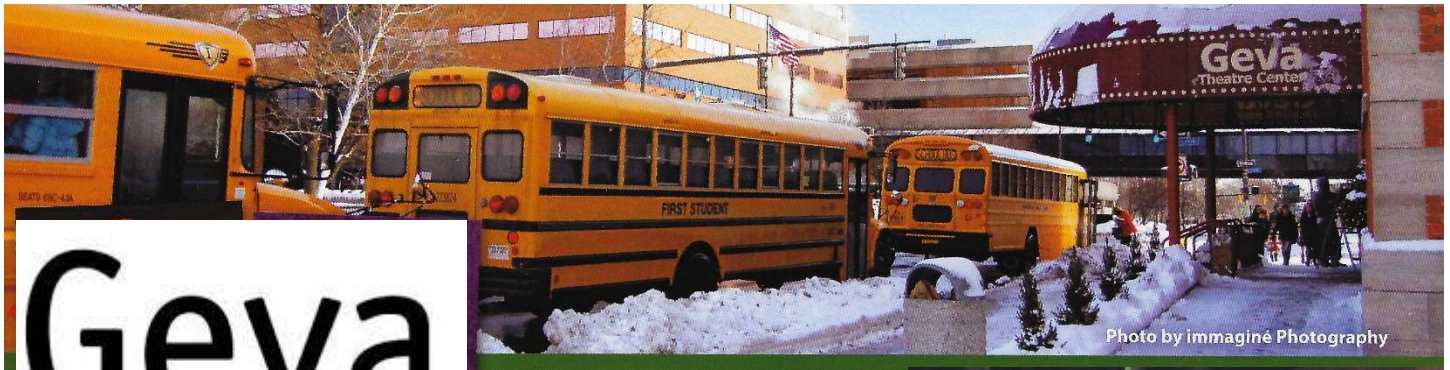
Former MCSBA members who maintain an interest in issues facing school boards and public education meet several times during the school year for updates on the issues. The group met on January 22 at GEVA so they could also learn about GEVA's educational programs for K12 students from Joanna Grosodonia, Former Chair and Honorary Trustee of the GEVA Board.

FAR LEFT: Joanna Grosodonia with affiliates co-chairs Barbara Cutrona and Margaret Burns.

UPPER LEFT: Chuck Perreaud and Mark Kokanovich.

LOWER LEFT: Sherry Johnson, Kim Kane, Richard Cunningham, Jody Siegle, Rome Celli, and Dick Pixley.

See more about GEVA programs for K12 students on page 7.



Geva Theatre Center

Programs for Schools



Every year Geva selects productions with strong curricular tie-ins to share with student audiences through its P.L.A.Y. (Performance=Literature+Art+You) Student Matinee Series. Students attend a professional school-day performance accompanied by the following P.L.A.Y. program components that are included in the ticket price:

Student Matinees

The P.L.A.Y. Student Matinee Series includes a selection of productions from the current Geva season. In addition to witnessing the production, students also participate in Discovery Workshops and Actor Visits. The 2019-2020 season P.L.A.Y. Student Matinee Series includes *La Cage aux Folles*, *The Nieces*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Looks Like Pretty*, and *Where Did We Sit on the Bus?*

Teacher Workshops

Teachers are invited to Geva prior to every student matinee to join company members and the education staff in discussion of the play, its historical and literary context, theatrical craft and artistic process.

Teacher Previews

Teachers who would like to attend a preview performance of any production in the P.L.A.Y. Series prior to bringing a group to a student matinee may call to request a complimentary preview ticket.

Discovery Guides

Discovery Guides for each production provide information about the play and its origins, relevant context, suggested discussion questions, and related activities.

Discovery Workshops

Discovery Workshops in classrooms involve a visiting artist-educator who explores the play's themes, onstage artistry, and the conceptual approach for each production through engaging activities and discussion.

Talkbacks

All P.L.A.Y. performances are immediately followed by a dialogue with cast members, providing students and teachers with the opportunity to respond to the performance and ask questions of the cast and crew.

Page to Stage

An intensive program intended for small groups of mature high school students, Page to Stage invites students to attend the initial reading of a P.L.A.Y. production, as well as a blocking rehearsal, run-through, technical rehearsal, preview, and performance. Students enjoy the opportunity to engage the director, actors, Geva's crafts artisans, and designers in a dialogue regarding the show's progress, and share a report with us diagramming their insights.

To learn more, visit <https://gevatheatre.org/engage-learn/programs-for-students/> or contact Skip Greer, Director of Education, at (585) 420-2073 or email sgreer@gevatheatre.org.



YOU'RE INVITED

NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF REGENTS

GRADUATION MEASURES

DATE: FEB. 13, 2020

TIME: 5:30 – 8 P.M.

MONROE 2-ORLEANS BOCES

3599 BIG RIDGE ROAD

SPENCERPORT, NY

SATELLITE LOCATIONS:

GENESEE VALLEY EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP SERVICE CENTER	80 MUNSON STREET	LEROY, NY 14482
WAYNE-FINGER LAKES BOCES CONFERENCE CENTER	131 DRUMLIN COURT	NEWARK, NY 14513
CAYUGA-ONONDAGA BOCES	1879 WEST GENESEE STREET RD.	AUBURN, NY 13021

The Board of Regents will create a Blue Ribbon Commission to review the State’s high school graduation measures and reaffirm what it means to obtain a diploma in New York State. The Board of Regents and State Education Department are holding regional meetings to help inform the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission.

Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to break into smaller groups to discuss and provide feedback to the Department. Please come and share your input!

Pre-registration is required.

To register: www.monroe2boces.org/grad-measures-meeting

For more information, visit: nysed.gov/grad-measures

