



Our 2021-2022 Leadership Team



TOP: President Gary Bracken (Spt), Vice President Amy West (HFL), Treasurer John Abbott (B2), Past President Amy Thomas (Pit), Tammy Gurowski (Web) Kerri Keyes (GC), Barbara Babiarz (Pen), and Frank Muscato (GC).
BOTTOM: Vincent Antonicelli (ER), M. Metras (WI), Kim McCluski (B1), Mark Elledge (Pen), Nancy Pickering (Hil), Kathleen Dillon, (B2, CC), Jo Anne Antonacci (B2), Kristin Swann (Spt), and Bo Wright (RH).

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 2021-2022 STEERING COMMITTEE includes:

President, Gary Bracken (Spe),
Vice President Amy West (HFL),
Treasurer John Abbott (B2), and
Past President Amy Thomas (Pit);

as well as the following presidential appointees:

- Information Exchange Chairs: Kerri Keyes (GC) and Tammy Gurowski (Web);
- Labor Relations Chairs: Barbara Babiarz (Pen) and Frank Muscato (GC);
- Legislative Chairs: Vincent Antonicelli (ER) and Matthew Metras (WI);
- COAC Chairs: Kathleen Dillon (B2, CC) and Kim McCluski (B1);
- At-large Board Members: Mark Elledge (Pen) and Nancy Pickering (Hil);
- Superintendents: Jo Anne Antonacci (B2), Kristin Swann (Spe), and Bo Wright (RH).

The MCSBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE consists of member district board presidents and superintendents as well as Association officers. The 2021-2022 board presidents and superintendents are as follows:

BOCES 1	Kim McCluski	Daniel White
BOCES 2	Dennis Laba	Jo Anne Antonacci
Brighton	Larry Davis	Dr. Kevin McGowan
Brockport	Terry Ann Carbone	Sean Bruno
Churchville-Chili	Cheryl Repass	Dr. 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	Brian O’Connor	Casey Kosiorek
Holley	Robin Silvis	Brian Bartalo
Honeoye Falls-Lima	David Francis	Gene Mancuso
Kendall	Lisa Levett	Julie Christensen
Penfield	Mark Elledge	Dr. Thomas Putnam
Pittsford	Amy Thomas	Michael Pero
Rochester	Van White	Dr. Leslie Myers-Small
Rush-Henrietta	Diane McBride	Bo Wright
Spencerport	Kevin Hutton	Kristin Swann
Victor	Tim DeLucia	Dr. Tim Terranova
Webster	Tammy Gurowski	Brian Neenan, Interim
West Irondequoit	Ann Cunningham	Aaron Johnson
Wheatland-Chili	James Musshafen	Lynda Quick

News Scope

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



President – Gary Bracken, Spencerport CSD
Vice President – Amy West, Honeoye Falls-Lima CSD
Past President – Amy Jo Thomas, Pittsford 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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Executive director Sherry Johnson to retire



Sherry Johnson has announced her intention to retire at the end of this school year. Sherry began her tenure as Executive Director of MCSBA in July 2015, and has led the Association successfully through a time of crisis for public education.

Prior to serving as executive director, Sherry served as the Association’s Assistant to the Executive Director 2011-2015, and was its 2002-2003 President. In addition she co-chaired a number of MCSBA committees, served on the NYS Commissioner’s Advisory Council of School Board members, the NYSSBA Resolutions Committee, and the Federal Relations Network.

Sherry was also a member and officer of the Churchville-Chili Board of Education 1997-2015. She did her undergraduate and graduate work in mathematics education at SUNY Brockport. She is a former math teacher in the Gates Chili CSD.

She and her husband Mark have two married sons and several grandchildren. She hopes to spend more time with her growing family after retirement.

Steering Committee sets 2021-2022 goals

During the August 11 meeting of the MCSBA Steering Committee, President Gary Bracken announced that executive director Sherry Johnson will be retiring at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. The MCSBA officers will meet and determine a process for the recommendation of a new Executive Director for final approval by the MCSBA Executive Committee before the end of June 2022.

As part of its agenda for the first meeting of the school year, the Steering Committee has established MCSBA 2020-2021 Goals. Committee members noted that the addition of BOE vice presidents to Board Leadership meetings was extremely helpful so that practice will continue..

2021-2022 Proposed Goals proposed by President G.Bracken include:

- Successfully hire a new Executive Director;
- Raise the volume on good news happening in the Association districts;
- Develop a detailed succession plan for the current office staff; review roles and current staffing levels to meet Association needs.

Executive director Sherry Johnson proposed the following goals:

- Fully implement programs for members;
- Monitor the use of the newly acquired technology and member attendance at PD and to determine the impact on revenue;
- Identify a location and move the office out of the existing facilities.

Sherry Johnson is recommending that the December trip to Albany be cancelled because members will have uncertain access to staff and meeting venues in Albany due to the continuing pandemic. The Legislative Committee will develop a strategy to continue to meet with selected Finance and SED officials as deemed necessary by committee members.

From our president: As we begin the school year



Gary Bracken

Greetings and Welcome Back to school! As I write this, I do so with a great deal of optimism as we get closer to the opening of our schools for full-time instruction; how great will that be?

I'd like to give a hearty welcome aboard to all of the new board members elected in May. You have joined a long-standing and noble cause, nearly as old as public education itself—to help guide and protect the rights of every child to a free and appropriate education. Thank you in advance for the work you will be doing as we find our way back to in-person schooling.

Back at the beginning of March of 2020, school busses picked up and dropped off students throughout the week, classrooms and buildings were abuzz with the sounds of learning, and we were always attentive to the work of ensuring our schools were properly funded. Oh, and I still had my military-style haircut!

Fast forward after 18 months of unprecedented impact to public education, our kids, and our way of life, here we are in August 2021, finally planning to have our kids back in school full time. But if the past year and a half have taught us anything, we know with some certainty there will be changing conditions and issues, both the normal kind and those tied to the pandemic, making the work of our teachers, administrators, and staff a challenge like no other.

So what as board members can we do to help? I chuckle as I recall the scene near the end of the movie *Animal House*, where the young ROTC student, facing a rampaging crowd, stands fast and yells, "Remain calm, all is well!" In all seriousness, that is one key thing boards can do to assist as we transition back into what we hope will be a nearly normal school year—Remain calm and professional.

Our district teams and boards will no doubt face many questions and challenges to our plans – vaccinated or not, face coverings or not, new social distancing guidelines or not, are sports going to be back on track and stay on track or not? With those, will come the "fan mail" from and appearances at board meetings by disgruntled parents, some of whom believe we can solve everything at the local level – "Just open the schools and no masks!"

But we know the realities of our positions. So we need to constantly work to educate our communities, maintain decorum, and not over react to those who don't seem able to practice civil discourse. If nothing else, the voting in May proved one thing: the majority of people understand the challenges and support the path that our districts and boards have followed. So stay the course, working with and supporting your administrations and staff as we get back in the game.

Finally, I'd like to share that your officers met in mid-July to develop goals for the Association for the next year and presented these to the Steering Committee at the beginning of August. These include:

- First and foremost, identify, recruit, and hire our next successful Executive Director.
- Advocacy, advocacy, advocacy. This has been a strength of the Association, but I would like to engage to 'raise the volume' of the good news of public education and the work our schools are doing to successfully educate kids in the face of continued challenges from the pandemic and onslaught of negative voices that spread misinformation and confusion. We also need to add our voice to the discussions of what education can look like going forward, using lessons learned from the pandemic and the resilient response of schools to ensure all students were reached.
- Develop a detailed succession and staffing plan for the rest of the office staff. This is critically important as our current staff have masterfully operated the Association and made it one of, if not the best, board associations in the state. We must ensure there is no drop in that performance going forward when any of our talented team leave to enjoy a much-deserved retirement.

This likely will not be a "fun" year, but it most certainly is an important one. Important for the here and now – getting our kids back into school full-time, safely and successfully. And important for the future as we work to shape a newer, more future-looking form of public education.

Edward Everett Hale, a late 19th century clergyman is quoted as saying, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Well, as we come together here at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, I am already encouraged by what I have seen at the two MCSBA committee meetings so far: a real sense of we're in this together and let's share ways to succeed.

Thank you for all you do for your communities and our future, the kids!

Gary Bracken

From our executive director: A Tribute to Servant Leadership



Sherry Johnson

Dear Members,

In my 24-year involvement in school leadership, I have seen all kinds of leaders in all kinds of leadership capacities. Since becoming your executive director, I have written on the generally accepted tenets of great leadership and the attributes of great leaders. In order to pay tribute to one of our own, I will need to add another to that list.

Mohammad Ali said, “Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth”.

The primary practice of a servant leader is to lead by example and provide inspiration to others to become servant leaders themselves. Servant leaders develop the capacity in others to make a lasting positive impact on our collective society.

Our association has known such a leader. His name is Bob Dickson. Bob served on the Monroe One BOCES Board of Education representing his home district of West Irondequoit since 2006, and serving as the Board President since 2011.

Bob did not intend to retire from either of his leadership roles this year, but very recently received a diagnosis of a terminal illness. Upon that diagnosis, he and his family made the courageous decision to home hospice and Bob passed peacefully on August 28.

I could list all of the accomplishments that Bob has had over his lifetime, but that would take more space than this column has and I know that I would not do him justice for trying. It also is not what he did that I want to write about, but who Bob was.

Bob was a teacher—an articulate, empathetic individual who ardently believed that continuous learning was the key to lifelong success. Bob was collaborative, engaging, funny and humble, and through his life experiences, he developed a wisdom that he graciously shared with many of our members. Bob cared so deeply for children that it made perfect sense for him to both inspire learning and to lead it.

Through his dedication and his care, Bob modeled the true meaning of leadership. He leaves this gift for all of us. I have now added to my attributes of great leaders the phrase: “Be like Bob”.

Bob’s rent here on earth is paid in full and then some. His legacy will live on through his family, the children who have benefited from his talents in the classroom and the boardroom, and through those of us who had the good fortune to know him.



Both Monroe One BOCES and West Irondequoit CSD have education foundations and if you are able and would like to, send a donation in his honor. I have listed their contact information at the bottom of this page. These donations can lay the possibilities for the next generation of servant leaders.

As you and your teams lay the foundation for yet another critical year for the students in your district, I hope that you will lead with empathy, with courage and with the knowledge that you, too, will one day leave a legacy in your efforts to make a difference in the lives of our children. Bob wanted to continue do this with you, as co-chair of our labor relations committee and as a member of our steering and executive committees. We will sorely miss him, but I know he would ask all of you to continue the important work that you do.

Monroe One Educational Foundation, 41 O’Connor Rd., Fairport, NY 14550
West Irondequoit Foundation, 321 List Ave., Rochester, NY 14617

Sherry Johnson

Leadership PD: Role of Race & Ethnicity in K-12 Education

On July 26, more than 90 MCSBA members attended a professional development opportunity hosted by MCSBA, Monroe One BOCES, and Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES entitled **The Role of Race & Ethnicity in K-12 Education**.

The session included a presentation by Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell followed by small group discussions among members to further explore the topic. Dr. Bradwell encouraged members to think about diversity in broad terms and review their student data to work toward educational equity and success across all student groups. He stressed the need for members to educate their community on the work that they have done in this area and continue to do, and to show how equity and success for all is reflected in school budgets, and programing moving forward.

Dr. Bradwell is an assistant professor in the Department of Education at Ithaca college. He is an alumnus of Amsterdam High School (NY); received a B.A. in political science from the University of Rochester, an M.S. in education from Rochester's Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development, and a Ph.D. in policy analysis and management from Cornell University. He is serving his fifth term on the Ithaca City School Board of Education and is currently the Vice President of the ICSD Board.



Jo Anne Antonacci (B2); Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell, presenter; and Dan White (B1).

SAVE THE DATE!!

FALL LAW CONFERENCE
Thursday, September 23, 2021
Shadow Lake Golf Club
1850 Five Mile Line Road, Penfield
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

TOPICS TO BE COVERED -

STUDENT OFF CAMPUS FREE SPEECH RIGHTS
(in the context of the new Mahanoy Decision, how that fits into superintendent hearings and discipline considerations for students with disabilities)

LEGALIZED MARIJUANA & SCHOOLS

LEGAL UPDATES

YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT:
Standard Registration fee: \$100/person
Registration to Follow.

MCLE credit:
3 NY professional practice credits.
This program is appropriate for New York experienced and newly admitted attorneys.

District Clerk Summer Seminar



LEFT & ABOVE: Presenters Laura Purcell, Esq.; Neil Flood (Web); and Mary Torcello (CC).

On July 27, district clerks from 23 area school districts participated in MCSBA’s annual summer seminar for clerks.

Included in the program were the following topics:

WE INVITE YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEETING: Leading a discussion of ways to educate the community on meeting procedures such as “Privilege of the Floor”, “Points of Order”, as well as Meeting Set-up & Security considerations, were **Mary Torcello**, District Clerk, Churchville-Chili CSD; and **Neil Flood**, Supervisor of Safety/ Security, Webster CSD.

LEGAL UP-DATES: Providing legal updates on issues like FOIL requests/appeals, and certification of school budget votes and referendums, was **Laura Purcell, Esq.**, Harris Beach PLLC.

CIRCLE TIME: Clerks shared their questions and concerns on a variety of topics of their choosing and played a game dubbed “Saying Good-By to 2021!” (celebratory game).

The planning committee which helped MCSBA’s Beckie Schultz identify topics and presenters included clerks Kristin Adler (ER), Cynthia Cushman (Web), Connie Nenni (Hol), Mary Torcello (CC), Rhonda Schaefer (HFL), and Sarah Williams (Mt. Morris).

BELOW: Participants listening to presenter Mary Torcello (CC).



MCSBA 2021-2022 Meeting Calendar



July 2021

* 27 Tue – 8:00 am **District Clerk Conference**

August 2021

* 11 Wed – noon Steering Committee Meeting

* 11 Wed – 5:45 pm Board Leadership Meeting

September 2021

* 8 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting

* 8 Wed – 5:45 pm Board Leadership Meeting

15 Wed – noon Information Exchange Comm., Shadow Lake GC

* 22 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting

* 23 Thur– 8:00 am **MCSBA/MCBA School Law Conference**

26-28 Sun - Tues NYSCOSS, Saratoga Springs

October 2021

1 Fri NYSSBA Board Officers' Academy

* 6 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting

6 Wed – 5:45 pm Executive Committee Meeting

7 Thur NYSSBA District Clerk Workshop

13 Wed – noon Information Exchange Comm., Shadow Lake GC

* **16 Sat – 7:30 am MCSBA Finance Conference**

* 20 Wed – 4:00 pm Labor Relations Committee Meeting

24-26 Thur-Sat NYSSBA Convention – New York City

November 2021

3 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meet., Shadow Lake GC

3 Wed – 5:45 pm Board Leadership Meeting, Shadow Lake GC

10 Wed – Noon Information Exchange Comm., Shadow Lake GC

10 Wed – 4:00 pm Steering Committee Meeting, ZOOM

* 17 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting

* **19 Thur-8:00 am District Clerks Conference**

December 2021

* 1 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting

1 Wed – 5:45 pm Executive Committee Meeting

January 2022

* 5 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting

* 5 Wed – 5:45 pm Board Leadership Meeting

* 12 Wed – noon Information Exchange Committee Meeting

* 19 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting

* 26 Wed – noon Steering Committee Meeting

February 2022

* 2 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting

2 Wed – 5:45 pm Executive Committee Meeting

* **5 Sat - 9:00 am MCSBA Legislative Breakfast**

* 9 Wed – noon Information Exchange Committee Meeting

* 16 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting

March 2022

* 2 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting

* 2 Wed – 5:45 pm Board Presidents Meeting

7-9 Sun-Tues NYSCOSS Winter Institute & Lobby Day

7-8 Mon, 10:30 am MCSBA Albany 2-day Advocacy Trip

* 9 Wed – noon Information Exchange Committee Meeting

* 16 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting

* **26 Sat, 8:00 am Prospective Candidate Seminar**

* 30 Wed – noon Steering Committee Meeting

April 2022

2-4 Sat-Mon NSBA Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

* 6 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting

* **7 Thurs District Clerk Conference**

* 13 Wed – noon Information Exchange Committee Meeting

* 27 Wed – noon Labor Relations Committee Meeting

27 Wed - 5:45 pm Executive Committee Meeting

May 2022

* 4 Wed – noon Legislative Committee Meeting

* 4 Wed – 5:45 pm Board Leadership Meeting

17 Tues

BUDGET & BOARD MEMBER VOTE

25 Wed - 5:30 pm MCSBA ANNUAL MEETING

June 2022

* **11 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.