



MCSBA
MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2022 – 2023 Annual Report



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

Sarah Visingard, Esq. Harris Beach PLLC;
Daniel Morton-Bentley, Esq., SED;
Amy Thomas, MCSBA;
Law Conference, September 2022;

MCSBA Members in the Legislative Office Building,
Albany, March 2023;

Labor Relations Committee members with Gates
Chili electric school bus, November 2022;

Information Exchange Committee presenters
& committee chairs, September 2022;

Fiscal Training Participants, October 2022;

Regent Wade Norwood and participants
at MCSBA Legislative Breakfast,
February 2023



*Serving school
leaders since 1970*



*54 years striving
for excellence for our
public school children*

MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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2022-2023 OFFICERS

Amy West, President

Matt Metras, Vice President

John Abbott, Treasurer

Gary Bracken, Past President

STAFF

Amy Thomas, Executive Director

Nancy Pickering, Program Director

Mary Talbot, Office Manager

Sarah Pelusio, Legislative Liaison



Dear Members,

Congratulations! You are crossing the finish line of the 2022/23 school year. I believe I just heard a collective YAHOO!

The 2022/23 school year has certainly introduced new shifts in what we once considered our “normal” existence. President Biden officially signed a bipartisan congressional resolution to bring the U.S. national emergency response to COVID-19 to an end on April 10, 2023—exactly three years and one month since the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 virus outbreak a global pandemic.

The end of the national emergency is certainly welcome news, but the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on public education are yet to be fully realized. In the wake of the pandemic, public education has been forced into an operational recovery mode. School districts have recognized gaps in learning, adapted to staffing/bus driver shortages, implemented additional mental and emotional health supports, addressed concerns relative to school safety – the list is endless. Our member districts have adapted largely due to the collaborative work between Superintendents and their administrative teams, school staff, and boards of education. This collaborative work has been essential to ensure the success of the districts in their post pandemic shift back to “normal.”

As I write this message, Governor Hochul’s final budget has been announced, and thankfully, there are no surprises that would negatively impact our schools’ budgets in 2023/24. Despite the Governor’s pledge to fully fund foundation aid, we will continue advocating for a restructured foundation aid formula in 2023/24.

Like our membership districts, the Monroe County School Boards Association office has also shifted in many ways. To better serve our members, we have modified our internal systems and structures. The office has undergone changes in personnel, a move to a new office space, additional programming, an updated website, and technology refinements for our hybrid committee meetings. MCSBA has also revised our mission statement in recognition of the New York State Board of Regents curriculum standards: “the Monroe County School Boards Association (MCSBA) is a member-driven organization providing support to public school leaders as they strive to provide an equitable education for all students.”

Although we have experienced internal changes, MCSBA remains dedicated to providing a wide range of services and resources to our members, including continuing education, updates on current trends and topics, and other resources to help empower you, as members, in your roles as educational leaders. We are also committed to providing innovative solutions and services to best meet the needs of the entire Association.

The work of the Association would not be possible without our small but mighty MCSBA team: Program Director, Nancy Pickering; Educational News Clips/Annual Program Editor, Judy Wadsworth; and our newest addition, Legislative Liaison, Sarah Pelusio. They have provided detailed support to the membership this year with unwavering commitment. Each member of the MCSBA office team was invaluable to me as I transitioned into the Executive Director role. Along with the office team, I have had the privilege of working with Amy West, President; Matt Metras, Vice-President; John Abbott, Treasurer; and Gary Bracken, Immediate Past-President.

Finally, I want to thank our most veteran MCSBA team member, Office Manager, Mary Talbot, for all her hard work and dedication to the Association. For 35 years, Mary has been the backbone of MCSBA. In addition to keeping accurate records of our office, working with district clerks, coordinating our committee meetings, orchestrating legislative/annual meetings/law conferences, she has dedicated countless hours to ensuring that our members’ needs are met. We could always count on Mary’s smile and friendly disposition to brighten any day. A genuinely caring human being, Mary will be greatly missed by the Monroe County School Boards Association. It has been my honor to learn and grow from Mary during my short tenure as Executive Director.

As we conclude the school year together, allow me to express my gratitude to all of you for your support this year. The opportunity to serve in this capacity has been an honor and I look forward to taking on the shifts facing us in the coming year!

Thank you!

I want to thank all of you for the honor of serving this organization as President this year. It is a privilege to work with such dedicated, passionate, collaborative and respectful leaders who are champions for public education. Transition years are always hard, but I have to say I don't think it could have gone any better.

Our goals this year centered around strengthening our relationships internally and externally. We worked on getting room layouts for meetings more conducive to collaborating with one another. We brought the name tags back to help us identify one another, realizing that the relationships and connections we build here are an important part of the value of this organization. Updating the website was another big initiative this year to help us connect with one another. Hopefully you have found the changes positive and useful. I'm sure that the website will only get better over time. We also brought back the affiliate network, consisting of about 10-15 people who have been active MCSBA members in the past and are very interested in keeping in touch with the issues facing public education and helping us spread a positive message. Our attendance at committee meetings and MCSBA programs was at an all time high.

I think the most positive accomplishment this year has been getting our legislative advocacy back on track after COVID. Mark Kokanovich and Sarah Pelusio did an amazing job leading us back to a more pre-pandemic advocacy effort. With Mark's mentoring, Sarah caught on so quickly that she became our MCSBA legislative liaison, and has done an amazing job in adding a whole new dimension to our advocacy efforts. Thank you to Sarah and Mark for your leadership. I look forward to seeing what next year brings.

In terms of leading this organization through this transition, I cannot say enough good things about Amy Thomas and her leadership this year. Amy goes above and beyond. She is so dedicated, thoughtful, deeply caring, and so passionate when it comes to doing what's best for kids. I have watched her work through some hard situations and I admire her great communications, flexibility, respectfulness, and sense of humor. She has done an amazing job this year! She hit the ground running and hasn't stopped ever since! I can't thank her enough for her leadership. Amy has been nothing but a pleasure to work with, and has made my role as President pretty easy.

I want to thank Nancy Pickering in her new role as Program Director. And Mary Talbot for working through this transition and her dedication over her many years with MCSBA.

The officers, John Abbott and Gary Bracken have been great to work with, always there to bounce ideas off of and give advice.

Special thanks to my vice-president this year, Matt Metras. Matt is a great leader—he keeps things fun and lighthearted, and has been such a pleasure to work with.

And last but not least, I want to thank Gene Mancuso, Superintendent at HF-L, as well as my fellow HF-L board members for their support of me in taking on this role this year.

As I think about this year, I can't help but think how much leadership matters. Leaders have the power to impact others positively or negatively, and have the power to build people up, or tear them down depending on how they choose to lead. Thank you to all the people who have made a positive impact on me over the years. I am so grateful for these years on the school board. They have helped me be a better leader and I am so proud to work with so many leaders that choose to make a positive impact on others, as we all work toward our common goal of doing what's best for kids.

Keep up the good work!



The 2022-2023 program year began with new Executive Director Amy Thomas, who previously served as Past President of the Association.



A major goal established by the Steering Committee in August 2022 was improved internal and external communications, including access to meetings via Zoom and two social networking events for members.

On August 15, 2022, an updated MCSBA website was launched to become the communications hub for all members as well as a source of information for the wider community. A Board Presidents blog was created on the website where presidents can share best practices, and the Ed Talk blog was hosted by Executive Director Amy Thomas.



Members at the November and May social networking events.



The 2023 edition of *Facts & Figures* was printed in full color and increased printing costs were more than covered by additional sponsors.



Sarah Pelusio

Legislative Committee Co-Chair Sarah Pelusio was hired as MCSBA's legislative liaison to handle all legislative events for MCSBA, starting with a complete revision of the Legislative Handbook and Zoom meetings with legislators. This position allows the Association to react more quickly to changing legislative initiatives.

The Association logo was re-designed by the Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES communications team and is being launched with this annual report.



MCSBA's Communications Outreach Advisory Committee (COAC) developed talking points for members and others to use when discussing issues with community members. The group also produced a guide for potential school board candidates. Led by co-chairs Kathy Dillon (CC, B2) and Kim McCluski (B1), the group includes Jo Anne Antonacci (B2), Gene Mancuso (HFL), MCSBA VP Matt Metras (WI), and MCSBA President Amy West (HFL).

Mission: The Monroe County School Boards Association (MCSBA) is a member-driven organization providing support to public school leaders as they strive to provide an equitable education for all students.

- MCSBA provides over 45 professional development programs for our membership per year
- 3 Standing committees meeting every month; Information Exchange, Labor Relations, and Legislative
- 4 Board President meetings
- 2 Law Conferences
- 2 Social Hours and an Annual Meeting in May open to all members
- 2-3 District Clerk seminars
- Facilitate Board Retreats and Moderate Meet the Candidates Nights
- Prospective Candidate seminar
- SED required trainings (BOE Governance and Finance)
- Produce two publications: *Best for Less* and *Facts and Figures*
- Facilitate tax bill printing for county

MCSBA collaborates with a number of groups to promote public education.



ACT (A Community Together) for Education, an initiative of the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents and the component districts of Monroe One and Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES, works with area businesses and other partners to deliver positive messaging about our local school districts and to encourage community support of public education.

ACT works with Causewave Community Partners to host roundtable webcasts on issues related to public schools. These webcasts have been well received by viewers. ACT also features partnerships with local businesses that benefit local students. ACT for Education is represented on the Rochester Chamber of Commerce’s Education Committee.



Panelists discussing the role of school boards in a video created and posted online by ACT for Education in March - Top: Executive Director Amy Thomas, Megan Sarkis (Spencerport), and Sue Casey (former Webster Board President); Bottom: Jeff Casey (Pittsford), and Sherita Traywick (Greece). Five vignettes featuring board members describing their experience as district leaders were also produced.

MCSBA’S Executive Director represents the Association with a number of other groups in the community that support public education:

- * Monroe County Bar Center for Education – to plan and present education law conferences;
- * The United Way “Together Now” Systems Integration Project - a community-wide approach to strengthen person-centered community programs with an integrated data system empowering individuals and their care teams to provide better and more holistic care;
- * Council of Local School Boards Associations (COLSBA) – to share common objectives and leverage collective knowledge;
- * UR Pediatric Mental Health Committee –mental health services provided by UR Medicine to local school districts;
- * Quarterly meetings with the NYSUT Regional Representative and MC Federation of Teachers President to discuss mutual interests.

Getting our messages out

The **MCSBA website** is instrumental in providing information on education issues and information about member districts to interested community members. Our website also includes a members-only section for official Association business.

MCSBA each year produces its ***Facts & Figures*** booklet that describes member districts and the purpose of MCSBA. This publication is distributed to Association members, the media, elected officials, and libraries. Sponsors cover the cost of printing this publication. In addition, copies are sold to realtors and relocation offices. The 2023 issue was printed entirely in color.

MCSBA’s ***The Best for Less*** report was updated and used in advocacy efforts by the Association.

Each Friday, MCSBA posts its **Education News E-Clips** on education trends and issues on its website for members.



MCSBA communications include ***Facts & Figures***, ***The Best for Less***, and its website.

Conferences & Seminars

Each year, MCSBA presents a number of conferences that attract school board members and administrators from inside and beyond Monroe County.

This year the Association hosted governance and finance conferences for new board members, two law conferences, and a seminar for prospective school board members. In addition, MCSBA presented three district clerks' professional development seminars.



Governance seminar for board members whose term started July 2022: Presenters and participants.



September 2022 law conference –
ABOVE: Presentation by Daniel Morton-Bentley, Esq., General Counsel, NYSED co-moderated by MCSBA's Amy Thomas and Sara Visingard, Esq., Harris Beach; BELOW: Jeff Lewis presenting.



Presenters and participants in the October 2022 fiscal conference.



Prospective school board candidates seminar, March 2023.



April 2023 Law Conference - Presenters and Participants



District Clerk Conferences Fall 2022 & Spring 2023



Topics covered at conferences this year included:

Governance: Powers, functions, duties of school boards; superintendent role; board responsibilities for finance, employee relations, and communications; powers and duties of other governing authorities.

Finance: Role of Boards of Education and Administration in financial planning and oversight; budget planning; fund balance and reserves; financial reports; preventing misuse of resources; auditor functions.

Two law conferences: Topics included school safety, legal requirements and responsibilities of school board service; personnel issues; and student discipline. The fall conference featured Daniel Morton-Bentley, Esq., General Counsel, NYSED, in a discussion of SED Commissioner's Decisions with Sara Visingard, Esq., Harris Beach, and MCSBA Executive Director Amy Thomas.

Three district clerk conferences: Legal updates; changing requirements; new electronic tools; review of responsibilities for board and budget votes, and for annual organization meeting; meeting minutes.

Information Exchange & Labor Relations Committees

Both the Information Exchange Committee and the Labor Relations Committee hear and react to programs led by knowledgeable presenters to stay informed about current issues affecting school districts.

Information Exchange Committee

Led by co-chairs Kerri Keyes (GC) and Jim Musshafen (WC), members identified the following issues to explore during their monthly meetings:

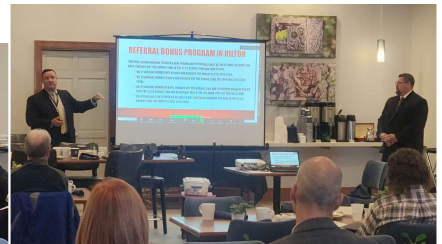
- * Student Safety and Mental Health Concerns
- * ACT for Education: Impact of Public Schools Using a Unified Voice & Community Partnership
- * Regional Equity Network: How BOEs can support focus on DEI
- * Effective Advocacy: Practicing Advocacy Etiquette
- * Esports: Engaging Our Digitized Youth
- * Parent Square: Stakeholder Engagement in Our Districts
- * Panel: What Makes a High Functioning Board?



**2022-2023
Information Exchange
Committee
Presenters & Members**



**2022-2023
Labor
Relations
Committee
Presenters
& Members**



Labor Relations Committee

Members led by co-chairs Mark Elledge (Pen) and Sherita Traywick (Gre), selected the following topics to discuss during this school year:

- * Post-Pandemic Supply Chain Considerations
- * Recruiting During a Labor Shortage
- * The Electric Bus: Costs, Considerations and the Future of Pupil Transportation
- * Contract Negotiations in a High Inflation Environment
- * Crisis Management: What to Do When Faced with a Crisis in your District
- * Annual RASHP II Update
- * H.R. 5: Parents Bill of Rights – Potential Considerations and Consequences.



Each year the Legislative Committee prepares and promotes the Association's legislative positions. This year, led by Mark Kokanovich (B1) and Sarah Pelusio (Pit), the committee revised ten position papers (on the need for bus drivers, charter schools and vouchers, electric school buses, impact of staff shortages, keeping schools safe and secure, mandates, federal role in public education, state investment in public education, supporting emotional well being of students, and the Role of Regents and SED), as well as talking points for meetings with state and federal officials.



In December, MCSBA members attended Zoom meetings with NYS officials. In February, the Legislative Committee hosted its annual local breakfast meeting with NYS lawmakers to discuss mandate relief and the value of our schools. In March, members traveled to Albany to meet with lawmakers and SED officials to discuss the Association's newly revised legislation positions.

In addition, the committee met with NYS Board of Regents Member Wade Norwood.

TOP RIGHT: Congressman Joe Morelle addressing the February Legislative Breakfast participants.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Legislative Committee members who led table discussions during the Legislative Breakfast.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Some of those discussions that involved 91 school district leaders and 16 governmental officials.



ABOVE: MCSBA members in Albany meeting with NYSSBA Governmental Relations Representatives John Daley and Matt DeLaus.

RIGHT: Members with NYS Senator Pamela Helming (center) in her Albany office.

RIGHT: MCSBA Executive Director Amy Thomas and NYS Board of Regents Member Wade Norwood with Legislative Committee Co-chairs Mark Kokanovich (B1) and Sarah Pelusio (Pit) at the April Legislative Committee meeting.



2022-2023 MCSBA Standing Committee Members

	STEERING	EXECUTIVE	LEGISLATIVE	LABOR RELATIONS	INFORMATION EXCHANGE
BOCES 1	Mark Kokanovich Kim McCluski – COAC Dan White – MCCOSS	Kim McCluski Dan White	Margaret Burns Mark Kokanovich * Lisa Latten Kim McCluski Tom Nespeca Maureen Nupp	Bryan Buttram Scott Covell Lisa Latten Kim McCluski Maureen Nupp	Margaret Burns Scott Covell Kim McCluski Nancy Semal
BOCES #2	John Abbott Jo Anne Antonacci - MCCOSS Dennis Laba	John Abbott Jo Anne Antonacci Dennis Laba	John Abbott Cindy Dawson Kathy Dillon Dennis Laba	John Abbott Kathy Dillon	John Abbott Cindy Dawson Dennis Laba
Brighton	Karen Hatch	Larry Davis Dr. Kevin McGowan	Karen Hatch Christina Lee	Larry Davis	Julene Gilbert Susan Gasparino Eleanor Oi
Brockport		Sean Bruno Terry Ann Carbone	Terry Ann Carbone Jeff Harradine	Sean Bruno Jerilee (DiLalla) Gulino Dan Legault Mike Turbeville	Kathy Robertson Mike Turbeville
Churchville-Chili	Kathy Dillon – COAC	Kathy Dillon Dr. Lori Orologio	Kathy Dillon	Kristen Brumbaugh	Jon Payne Mike Turbeville
East Irondequoit		Mary Grow Kim Lasher	Stacey Beaumont Jill Ricci	Kim Lasher Dan McNerney	Kim Lasher Pat Storm
East Rochester		James Haugh Jennifer Majewski-Lesinski	Vincent Antonicelli	Jenalee Herb	Jennifer Majewski-Lesinski
Fairport		Erica Belois-Pacer Brett Provenzano	Erica Belois-Pacer Joyce Kostyk Brian Moritz Brett Provenzano	Erica Belois-Pacer Peter Forsgren Doug Lauf	Marty Cardona Janice Fortuna
Gates Chili	Kerri Keyes	Christopher Dailey Catherine Coffey	Frank Muscato		Kerri Keyes *
Greece	Sherita Traywick	Kathy Graupman Sean McCabe	Tracey Farmer Bill Maloney Sherita Traywick	Tracey Farmer Kathy Graupman - MCCOSS Bill Maloney Sherita Traywick *	Mark Buonaugurio Kathy Graupman
Hilton	Casey Kosiorek - MCCOSS	Mark Hilburger Casey Kosiorek	Brian O'Connor Nancy Pickering	Ned Dale Mark Hilburger Ed Mascadri	Nancy Pickering
Holley		Brian Bartalo Robin Silvis	Brian Bartalo	Brian Bartalo	Brian Bartalo - MCCOSS
Honeoye Falls-Lima	Gene Mancuso - MCCOSS Amy West	Gene Mancuso Amy West	Carol Bellavia Gene Mancuso - MCCOSS Caralyn Ross Amy West	Dave Leahy Christopher Neff Stephanie Templeton Amy West	David Francis Christopher Neff Joel Robinson Amy West
Kendall		Lisa Levett Nicholas Picardo	Rachel Fiskien David Warren	Rachel Fiskien Bryan Hardenbrook	Lisa Levett Chaley Swift
Penfield	Mark Elledge	Lisa Bentai-Chidsey Dr. Thomas Putnam	Krista Khan	Daniel Driffill Mark Elledge * Stephen Kenny Tom Putnam - MCCOSS	Catherine Dean Tom Putnam - MCCOSS
Pittsford	Sarah Pelusio	Mike Pero Ted Aroesty	Sarah Pelusio * Emily Kay	Dave Berk Emily Kay Sarah Pelusio	Dave Berk Emily Kay
Rochester		Cynthia Elliott Carmine Peluso	Ricardo Adams Amy Maloy	Cynthia Elliott	Cynthia Elliott Carmine Peluso
Rush-Henrietta		Barbara Mullen Diane McBride	Scott Adair	Mai Abdullah Casey van Harssel Andy Whitmore	Nerlande Anselme Rachel Sherman
Spencerport	Gary Bracken	Gary Bracken Kristin Swann	Gary Bracken Lori Stone	Leah Brown Michael Miceli Ty Zinkiewich	Gary Bracken Michael Miceli Megan Sarkis Kristen Swann - MCCOSS Ty Zinkiewich
Victor		Tim DeLucia Tim Terranova	Tim DeLucia Trisha Turner	Tim DeLucia Debbie Palumbo-Sanders	Tim DeLucia Debbie Palumbo-Sanders
Webster		Brian Neenan Jan Richardson	Jennifer Birdsong-Ng Brian Freeman	Carole Barnabas Linda Dioguardi Brian Freeman Dave Swinson	Carole Barnabas Shanna LaDelfa Brian Neenan
West Irondequoit	Matthew Metras	Aaron Johnson Matthew Metras	Ann Cunningham Aaron Johnson Matthew Metras Matt Sullivan	Michelle Cramer Ann Cunningham Aaron Johnson – MCCOSS Matthew Metras Matt Sullivan	Michelle Cramer Joe Jackson Matthew Metras Courtney Shouse Matt Sullivan
Wheatland-Chili	Jim Musshafen	Jim Musshafen Lynda Quick	Lynda Quick	Beth Nolan	Cindy Dawson Jim Musshafen *

2022-2023 MCSBA Departures

Thank you to departing members for their dedication and service
to our children, to our community, and public education!

MCSBA leaders leaving their school boards at the end of June 2023 are:

Amy West (HFL)– 2022-2023 MCSBA President, 2021-2022 MCSBA Vice President, 2019-2020 Labor Relations Committee Co-Chair (while retiring from the Honeoye Falls-Lima Board, Amy will serve on the Monroe One BOCES Board);

Joyce Kostyk – 2018-2019 Legislative Committee Co-Chair.



Also leaving are the following:

Mike Alt (Web)	Jennifer Laird (RH)
Ted Aroesty (Pit)	Jennifer Majewski-Lesinski (ER)
Lisa Benati-Chidsey (Pen)	Andrea Newman (Hol)
Margaret Cardona (Fpt)	Beth Nolan (WC)
Maryanne Chaffee (Hil)	Brian O'Connor (Hil)
Ann Cunningham (WI)	Debbie Palumbo-Sanders (Vic)
Katherine Czarnecki (Spe)	Jeffrey Pettenski (GC)
Christine DeTurck (B1)	Willa Powell (Roc) Term expires 12/31
Julene Gilbert (Bri)	Douglas Rivers (RH)
Michael Iacucci (CC)	John Siwicki (Gre)
Jeffrey Klein (HFL)	Trisha Turner (Vic).

Mary Talbot – 1988-2023 Office Manager

No one currently a member of MCSBA can remember MCSBA without Mary Talbot. She was hired in 1988 and has served the Association and its members faithfully and effectively for 35 years.



Summer 2022 Events

BELOW: At an August 17, 2022 news conference, Congressman Joe Morelle described legislation he has introduced to streamline the bus driver application process and to get more drivers in the pipeline to address the school bus driver shortage. Seen with him at the news conference are Brighton Town Supervisor William Moehe, MCSBA Executive Director Amy Thomas, and Brighton CSD Superintendent Dr. Kevin McGowan.



ABOVE: Current Executive Director Amy Thomas with Past Executive Director Dr. John Woods in summer 2022. They are in front of the video screen in her office that was purchased with Dr. Woods' donation to MCSBA.



54th Annual Meeting

May 24, 2023
AGENDA

5:30 pm	Registration and Social Time: Pane Vino, Monroe Avenue, Pittsford	
6:15 pm	Musical Interlude: HFL Select Choir, Honeoye Falls-Lima CSD, led by Choral Director Ken Goold	
6:15 pm	Dinner	
7:00 pm	54th Annual Meeting	
	Welcome and Introductions	Amy West, MCSBA President
	Message from NYSSBA	Barry Entwistle, NYSSBA Director of Member Relations
	ACT for Education Update	Jo Anne Antonacci, District Superintendent, Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES
	President's Remarks	Amy West, MCSBA President
	Executive Director's Remarks	Amy Thomas, Executive Director
	Nominating Committee Report & Election of 2023-2024 Officers	Gary Bracken, MCSBA Past President
	Remarks by President Elect	
	Closing Remarks	Amy West, MCSBA President
8:00 pm	Adjournment	

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