



# 2015-2016 Annual Report



**2015-2016 Steering Committee Members:** Back Row: Michael Pero (Pit), Dr. Ken Graham (RH), Lisa Ireland (Broc, Information Exchange Co-Chair), John Abbott (Boces#2, East Ironde, Treasurer MCSBA), Mark Kokanovich (Bri, MCSBA Past President), David Dimpleby (Hil). Front Row: Lynn Fulmore (CC, Legislative Co-Chair), Kim McCluski (Pit), COAC Co-Chair), Margaret Burns (WI, COAC Co-Chair), Barbara Cutrona (Hil, President MCSBA), Ann Carmody (Web, Legislative Co-Chair). Not Shown: Andrea Costanza (Bri, Labor Relations Co-Chair), Camille Rutan (Pen, Information Exchange Co-Chair), John Piper (Pen, MCSBA Vice-President), Tom Abbott (Hil, Labor Relations Co-Chair), Casey Kosiorek (Hil), Deborah Leh (WC).

***MCSBA MEMBERS:* Striving for excellence for the children in our public schools**



Some of the members attending the Fall 2015 advocacy trip to Albany. Back row: Lori Orologio (CC), Sean McCormick (RH), Sherry Johnson (Executive Director MCSBA), Michael DeLaus (BOCES #1), Phyllis Wickerham (RH). Front Row: Joyce Kostyk (Frpt), Margaret Burns (WI), Amy Thomas (Pit), Brian Freeman (Web).

## **MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

220 Idlewood Road, Rochester, NY 14618

Phone (585) 328-1972

Fax (585) 328-2494

[www.mcsba.org](http://www.mcsba.org)

### 2015-2016 OFFICERS

Barbara Cutrona, President

John Piper, Vice-President

John Abbott, Treasurer

Mark Kokanovich, Past President

### STAFF

Sherry Johnson, Executive Director

Beckie Schultz, Asst. to Executive Director

Mary Talbot, Office Manager



*From Our Executive Director*

## *A Year of Transitions*



Dear Members,

“The more things change, the more things stay the same” so the saying goes. This year there was a lot of change at MCSBA.

First, there were major changes in our office. With Jody Siegle leaving for retirement, the Executive Director’s position needed to be filled. I was honored and humbled to be given the nod by the hiring committee and subsequently, the Executive committee to lead MCSBA in this new capacity. Since I served the organization as the Assistant to the Executive Director, one of my first responsibilities was to fill my vacated position. Beckie Schultz now expertly fills that place for us with dedication and passion. Both Beckie and I are grateful to the compassionate and knowledgeable guidance of Mary Talbot in her role as Office Manager in keeping us all a functioning unit.

In December, President Obama signed into law, the Every Student Succeeds Act, reauthorizing the much needed changes to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This bi-partisan legislation returns to states and local boards of education the authority to make decisions related to the education of students. While the rules and regulations for ESSA are still being debated, it is clear that Congress wants the federal role in education to hold a much smaller footprint; a welcome shift. It was something that the Association membership advocated for throughout the fall and those efforts, along with others outside of our organization, paid off.

In January, Meryll Tisch announced that she would not seek re-election to the NYS Board of Regents and following that announcement, two other Regents also chose not to continue in their roles. We now have a new Chancellor in Dr. Betty Rosa and a new Vice-Chancellor, our own T. Andrew Brown. This Board of Regents has also reframed the conversation about how students receive their instruction and are assessed. SED Commissioner, MaryEllen Elia who has been hard at work for less than a year has her own ideas as well. The Commissioner drew a lot of attention at our fall law conference and we are looking forward to hearing from her again at this fall’s conference.

Also, in January, the much dreaded tax cap number came out and while it wasn’t zero as expected, it might as well have been at 0.12%. For our districts this was going to mean difficult decisions for closing budget gaps created by the GEA and frozen Foundation Aid. Again, through a great deal of advocacy, the legislature returned, in one year, not two, the rest of the GEA dollars owed to our districts.

While these were all significant changes, our vision, our mission and our goals remain steadfast. Supporting all of you, while you navigate through these changes is what we do. We may work with new leaders and new legislation, but we remain strong because all of you believe in and support public education as the best path for the next generation. Thank you for all that you do.

*Sherry*

# 2015-2016 Highlights at MCSBA

## *Advocating, Educating, Representing*

### Funding for Public Education – Remains Association Goal #1

Funding for public schools once again became the guiding conversation of the association in all of its advocacy opportunities for the year. Meetings with legislators in the fall both locally and in Albany targeted elimination of GEA, unfreezing of foundation aid, and completing regulations for BOCES construction and PILOTS that would mitigate some of the impact of the tax cap. At the legislative breakfast in February, these issues were revisited as the true impact of a 0.12% tax cap on local districts was known. Requests to untie the cap from the CPI and removal of the supermajority requirement for budgets over the cap were added. The two-day spring trip to Albany once again highlighted these same funding issues and addressed other diversions of public school funds such as the Governor's Parental Choice Act and additional funding for Charter schools. Educating lawmakers on the impact a \$15/hr minimum wage would have on school districts prior to its inclusion in the state budget was also a key focus of the trip. MCSBA districts were well represented in all advocacy efforts.

### The Communication Outreach Advisory Committee met to develop talking points on ENL/ELL CR-154 Regulation changes and Assessments and advocated for the reauthorization of ESEA.

After discussion at the initial COAC meeting in September, a letter and resolution were drafted advocating for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Districts were able to use these materials at their discretion and many sent them on to their Senators. The committee also met several times to develop talking points for members related to emerging issues. Specific talking points were developed on ENL/ ELL regulation changes entitled **"All teachers are teachers of English Language Learners...A Foundation for School Leaders"** in October and **"The ABC's Of Assessments"** in February. The members of the 2015- 2016 COAC were: Sherry Johnson (Executive Directive MCSBA), Barb Cutrona (Hil, MCSBA President), Mark Kokanovich (Bri, MCSBA Past

President), John Piper (Pen, Vice-President MCSBA), Margaret Burns (WI, Co-chair), Sue Casey (Web), Jo Anne Antonacci (BOCES #2), Kathy Dillon (CC). Not pictured Dr. Ken Graham (RH), Kim McCluski (Pit, Co-chair), Beckie Schultz (Assistant to Director, MCSBA).



### MCSBA board leaders share their expertise with NYSSBA

Board Presidents from MCSBA discussed their roles and responsibilities for attendees at the NYSSBA's Leadership Conference. They participated in a Q and A session, sharing their experiences as board leaders for school board members from across the state that were interested in assuming leadership roles in current and future years.

**Pictured top left:** Mark Kokanovich (Bri), Mike Suffoletto (Web), Kathy Dillion (CC), Dan Wellington (Hil).





# Community Connections

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

MCSBA continues its representation on the **Council of Governments (COG)** where members collaborate with other officials on common issues.

The **Monroe County Superintendents Public Education Advocacy Committee (MCSPEAC)** continues to develop information about our public schools to help the greater community understand the value and strengths of public education in our county. This year the committee worked with Causewave Community Partners, formally the Ad Council of Rochester to show the generous and varied ways school children give back to their communities and to increase business sponsored television commercials that highlight the success of our public school districts.

The **Monroe County Education Coalition (MCEC)** includes the PTA, school boards, superintendents, teacher unions, administrators, and school business officials. MCSBA provides and maintains a MCEC website at [www.mcsba.org](http://www.mcsba.org).

## MCEC Coalition Members published an editorial on the unintended consequences of the NYS Tax Cap and met with local Legislators.

MCEC members developed an editorial on the unintended consequences of the NYS Tax Cap that was published in the Democrat and Chronicle in November and met with local legislators in February. Topics for the meeting included funding (restoration of GEA, full phase in of Foundation Aid and opposition to STAR changes) as well as opposition to the proposed Parental Choice Act and continued help with state testing and APPR issues. Members also presented data illustrating that local Charter Schools have not created the student achievement gains expected at their inception. MCEC is currently celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year of service to the children of Monroe County.



**Pictured top left:** Michael Pero (Monroe County Council of School Superintendents, President), Jo Anne Antonacci (BOCES#2), Mark Kokanovich (MCSBA, Past President), Barbara Cutrona (MCSBA President), Julie Christensen (Monroe County Council of School Superintendents, Past President), Lisa Ryan (Monroe County Chapter, Association of School Business Officials); **Bottom left:** Jori Cincotta (Genesee Valley PTA). **Top right:** Scott Steinburg (Monroe County Federation of Teachers), Tom Gillett (NYSUT), Judy Wegman (Monroe County Federation of Teachers), Dr. W. Bruce Gorman (School Administrators Association of NYS). **Not pictured:** Sherry Johnson (MCSBA Executive Director), Dr. Bruce Capron (Monroe County Chapter, Association of School Business Officials), Chip Partner (Director of Communications, Rochester City School District), Joe Pustlka, (Region 11, School Administrators Association of NYS), Beckie Schultz (MCSBA, Assistant to the Executive Director). **Bottom right:** Senator Richard Funke, Senator Joseph Robach, Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, Assemblyman Harold Bronson, Assemblyman Mark Johns, and Barbara Clark, Chief of Staff for Senator William Nojay.

## By Getting our Messages Out Reporting

Each Friday, MCSBA emails an electronic news update on educational issues to members and others interested in staying abreast of current educational topics.

*News Scope*, the MCSBA newsletter, covers MCSBA events and educational issues. Readers include state officials, college presidents, attorneys and the media.

MCSBA also works with local media to help them understand and explain issues to the wider community.



### ***Facts & Figure***

Each year, copies of the MCSBA *Facts & Figures* booklet are given to MCSBA members, the media, elected officials and libraries. Sponsors cover the cost of this service. Other copies are sold to realtors.

### ***Best for Less***

This is a free publication highlighting the ways member districts share resources to cut the costs and expand the quality and variety of services provided by the county's public schools. It can be downloaded from our website.



## 2015-2016 Conferences

Each year, MCSBA presents a number of conferences that attract school board members and administrators from within and beyond Monroe County. In 2015-2016, MCSBA held three district clerks seminars, a law conference, and two SED approved seminars, Finance and Governance for new school board members. The Law conference provided an opportunity for local board members to meet the newly appointed Commissioner of Education, MaryEllen Elia, and gain perspective on how she planned to direct and implement educational changes in NYS.

**Below are some of the presenters from our conferences this past year. We are always grateful to our presenters who dedicate their time and talents to our members!**





## Committee Programs for members

**The Information Exchange Committee** led by Co-Chairs **Camille Rutan (Pen)** and **Lisa Ireland (Broc)** met this year to learn about:

- The Board of Education's Role in the Budget Process;
- How to Keep Students and Staff Safe and Secure While Using Social Media Appropriately;
- Creating Inclusive Schools For Transgender/LGBTQ Students;
- APPR Changes;
- Cost Savings from Self Funding RASHP 2 and Educational Foundations;
- Current Trends in Substance Abuse;
- And Hear Local Regents Share Their Perspectives on the Direction of Education in NYS.

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**The Labor Relations Committee** led by **Tom Abbott (Hil)** and **Andrea Costanza (Bri)**, shared negotiations updates at each meeting and discussed:

- Civil Service Hiring and Termination;
- Potential Impact of the \$15/hr Minimum Wage;
- Evidence Based Superintendent Evaluations;
- Innovative Settlements and Labor Practices;
- RASHP 2 Update;
- Pension Systems-How they Work and What Drives their Rates;
- Digital Based Employee Management System.

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**At the first meeting of the year, these committees identify future topics to pursue at their remaining meetings. A survey is also sent out during the summer to both committees in order to facilitate a more productive start for the fall.**





## Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee prepares and promotes the Association's legislative positions. This year, under the leadership of **Ann Carmody (Web)** and **Lynn Fulmore (CC)**, the committee up-dated position papers on the role of SED and the Federal Government in public education and arranged and promoted meetings with NYS officials locally in the fall and in Albany in December.



In early February, the Legislative Committee hosted its annual local breakfast meeting with NYS lawmakers to discuss the value of public education in Monroe County and the NYS budget, especially the elimination of GEA and unfreezing the foundation aid formula.



Members also attended appointments with SED and NYS officials arranged by MCSBA in Albany late February in conjunction with the NYSSBA Capital Conference. Members met with legislators and representatives of SED and the Governor's office prior to the completion of the state budget to advance local districts needs and provide lawmakers with background information on the impact of proposed legislation.



# 2015-2016 MCSBA Standing Committee Members

District	Steering Committee	Executive Committee	Legislative Committee	Labor Relations	Information Exchange
BOCES #1		Dan White Robert Dickson	Tom Nespeca Fred Shippey	Bryan Buttram Mike DeLaus Kristin Lowe	Robert Dickson Sora Sachs Nancy Semal Mike Doughty
BOCES #2	John Abbott	JoAnne Antonacci Dennis Laba John Abbott	John Heise John Abbott	John Abbott John Heise	Linda Burlingame Dennis Laba
Brighton	Mark Kokanovich Andrea Costanza	Dr. Kevin McGowan Mark Kokanovich	Mark Kokanovich	Andrea Costanza * Dr. Marvin Sachs Mark Kokanovich	Julene Gilbert Martha Sciremammano Mark Kokanovich
Brockport	Lisa Ireland	Dr. Lesli Myers Lisa Ireland	Terry Ann Carbone Michael Guerrieri	Gary Zimmer Michael Guerrieri	Lisa Ireland * Kathy Robertson
Churchville-Chili	Kathy Dillon Lynn Fulmore	Lori Orologio Kathy Dillon	Lynn Fulmore * Kathy Dillon	John Connolly Lynn Fulmore	Cheryl Repass
East Irondequoit		Susan Allen Kim Lasher	Stacey Beaumont Kimberly Lasher	Ben Stalls Phil Oberst	Kimberly Kane Carol Watt Susan Allen +
East Rochester		Mark Linton Colette Morabito	Colette Morabito	Margy Richards	Jennifer Majewski Lesinski
Fairport		Brett Provenzano Marilyn Monkelbaan	Joyce Kostyk Maureen Nupp	Peter Forsgren	Damon Buffum Marty Cardona
Gates Chili		Kimberle Ward Lowell Benjamin	James Crider Barbara Clark	Lowell Benjamin Kelly Glover	Mary Frances Johnson
Greece		Kathy Graupman Sean McCabe	Richard Cunningham Joe Grinnan Lisa Christoffel	Bill Maloney Richard Cunningham Jaime Warren	Frank Oberg Richard Cunningham
Hilton	Barbara Cutrona David Dimpleby Casey Kosiorek Tom Abbott	David Dimpleby Casey Kosiorek Dan Wellington Barbara Cutrona	Barbara Cutrona Aggie Seneway	Tom Abbott * Aggie Seneway Barbara Cutrona	Nancy Pickering Aggie Seneway Barbara Cutrona
Honeoye Falls-Lima		Gene Mancuso Gary Stottler	Joe Alati Larry Young	Gary Stottler Jody Allison Bruce Capron	Amy West Mike Shannon Gene Mancuso +
Kendall		Julie Christensen Nadine Hanlon	Nadine Hanlon Julie Christensen	Charles Patt Martin Goodenbery	Chaley Swift Christopher Gerken
Penfield	John Piper Camille Rutan	Dr. Thomas Putnam John Piper	Mark Elledge Catherine Dean John Piper	Barbara Babiarz Tom Putnam John Piper Barbara Gregory	Camille Rutan * Lisa Benati-Chidsey John Piper
Pittsford	Kim McCluski Mike Pero	Mike Pero Peter Sullivan	Amy Thomas	Irene Norotsky Ted Aroesty	Mike Allington Valerie Baum
Rochester CSD		Linda Cimusz ( Interim) Van White	Melisa Campos	Malik Evans	
Rush-Henrietta	Dr. Kenneth Graham	Dr. Kenneth Graham Diane McBride	Robert Cook Dr. Ken Graham +	Robert Bower Sue Smith Andy Whitmore Patrick McCue	Sean McCormick Sue Smith Nerlande Anselme
Spencerport		Michael Crumb William Sweeney	Gary Bracken Michael Zale	Kevin Hutton David Gibbardo	Michael Miceli David Gibbardo
Webster	Ann Carmody	Carmen Gumina Mike Suffoletto	Ann Carmody * Tom Nespeca	Mike Dedee Mike Suffoletto	Mike Gustin Ann Carmody
West Irondequoit	Margaret Burns	Jeff Crane Margaret Burns	Margaret Burns Ann Cunningham Bill Evans	Bill Evans John Vay	John Shafer Michael Seeley
Wheatland-Chili	Deb Leh	Dr. Deborah Leh Kim Snyder		Tiffany Passmore	Michelle Rocha

\*Standing Committee chairpersons +Superintendent representatives from the Monroe County Council of Superintendents



## 2015-2016 Departures

**We thank you for your dedication and service to our children, to your community and public education!**



Gerald Maar  
Brockport Board of Education  
Member  
Past MCSBA President  
Past Labor Relations Co-Chair  
(Remaining on BOCES# 2 Board)



Jean Chaudari  
Rush Henrietta  
Board of Education Member



David Dimpleby  
Hilton Superintendent



Dan Wellington  
Hilton  
Board of Education Member  
Past Information Exchange Co-Chair



Janet Tyler  
Spencerport  
Board of Education Member  
Past Information Exchange Co-Chair



Michael Seeley  
West Irondequoit  
Board of Education Member



Mary Francis Johnson  
Gates-Chili Board of Education Member



Barb Cutrona  
Hilton  
Board of Education Member  
MCSBA President  
Past Information Exchange Co-Chair



Phyllis Wickerham  
Rush-Henrietta  
Board of Education Member  
Past Information Exchange Co-Chair



Jody Allison  
Honeoye Falls-Lima  
Board Of Education Member



Carol Davis  
Wheatland-Chili  
Board of Education Member



Margaret Burns  
West Irondequoit  
Board of Education Member  
Past Co-Chair -  
Legislative, COAC committees



Kelly Odorisi  
Brisdon  
East Rochester  
Board of Education Member



Ben Stalls  
East Irondequoit  
Board of Education Member  
Past Co-Chair Labor Relations



Gale O'Toole  
Greece  
Board of Education Member



William Sweeney  
Spencerport  
Board of Education Member

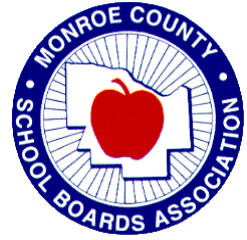


Melisza Campos  
Rochester CSD  
Board of Education Member



Bogen Vargas  
Superintendent  
Rochester CSD

# *47<sup>th</sup> MCSBA Annual Meeting Agenda*



5:30 pm     **Social Time**

6:00 pm     Musical Interlude

6:15 pm     **Musical Performance:**  
The Hilton Jazz Ensemble  
Directed by Jared Streiff

6:30 pm     **Dinner**

7:30 pm     **47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Keynote**  
Welcome and Introductions  
Message from NYSSBA  
Special Recognitions  
Year-End Report  
Report of the Nominating Committee  
Election of 2016-2017 Officers  
Remarks by the President Elect  
Remarks by the President

Barbara Cutrona  
Jessica Goldstein  
Barbara Cutrona  
Sherry Johnson  
Mark Kokanovich  
Barbara Cutrona  
John Piper  
Barb Cutrona

8:30 pm     **Adjournment**

MCSBA thanks HUNT Engineers Architects Surveyors for  
their sponsorship of this event

