



# *2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT*

*MCSBA begins its  
51st year  
of Continuously Striving for Excellence for the Children  
in our Public Schools*



**2019-2020 Steering Committee Members:** Top row: Kathleen Dillion (CC, B2, MCSBA President), Amy Thomas (Pitt, MCSBA Vice President), John Abbott (B2, MCSBA Treasurer), Michael Suffoletto (Web, MCSBA Past President), Valerie Baum (Pitt, Information Exchange Co-Chair), Gary Bracken (Spt, Labor Relations Co-Chair), Tammy Gurowski (Web), Mark Kokanvoich (Bri, Legislative Co-Chair). Bottom row: Dennis Laba (B2, Legislative Co-Chair), Kim McCluski (Pitt, COAC Chair), Nancy Pickering (Hil, Information Exchange Co-Chair), Amy West (HFL, Labor Relations Co Chair), Jo Anne Antonacci (B2, Superintendent), Loretta Orologio (CC, Superintendent), Tom Putnam (Pen, Superintendent).

## **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)

### 2019-2020 OFFICERS

Kathleen Dillon, President

Amy Thomas, Vice-President

John Abbott, Treasurer

Mike Suffoletto, Past President

### STAFF

Sherry Johnson, Executive Director

Beckie Schultz, Program Director

Mary Talbot, Office Manager



## *From Our Executive Director*



Dear Members,

Instead of using this platform to summarize the year as I usually have, I will instead be writing to you to summarize the events since March 14 and to provide a few "thank yous" as I would have done, if we were able to meet on June 3, for our annual meeting at the Ridgemont Country Club.

I specifically note the date and place, because we are in a historical moment and hopefully, a once in a lifetime one. I say that with a fervent desire that those we are educating today will develop the capacity to create policies and systems from the highest levels of leadership down to every individual in our nation, so that this might never happen, on this scale, ever again.

History will have a lot to say about how we handled this crisis with the 20-20 hindsight that they are afforded. Did we do enough? Did we do it in the right way? Those who may take the time to read this in the future, may still suffer from the repercussions of the collapse of our economy and the toll that mitigating this virus took on individuals, families and communities.

For our membership, March 16 was when all of you became responsible for the continuity of learning for every student, remotely. With little outside guidance to go on, your administrators and teachers needed to get all of the structures for doing this into the hands of students and to find out which families were going to need support with devices and technology infrastructure. Districts were also still responsible for making sure children were fed and suddenly mandated to provide childcare for essential workers. It was, for many of you and many families, a feat of Herculean proportions.

As Zoom meetings became our window into homes, your teachers and administrators took time, beyond instruction, to reach out to students and to support families in creative ways, because they understood just how much was still missing.

Concerts and art shows, an entire spring sports season, proms and other culminating celebrations could not happen. Seniors, who had prepared their entire lives to walk across the stage while peers and families cheered from a packed venue, were denied that opportunity. We now know that no one will get to say goodbye in the usual way.

But, you were asked to carry on as if the rest of the world had not paused. There have been no breaks to enjoy holidays, no time away at all; even weekends got swept up in the sea of the preparation that it took to move education into another space. You held online board meetings, interpreted executive orders, read SED guidance and listened to the myriad of webinars with organizations, the health department, the Governor and others, in hopes of gleaning any information. And, while you worked to raise up so many, you took a back seat to your front line workers, so that they got the praise they deserved.

And, if that wasn't effort enough, you weren't even afforded the opportunity to represent your communities to pass your own budget proposals as every other elected official in our state is authorized to do. Instead, the additional expense was placed on your district budgets to mail out absentee ballots to the entirety of your communities in hopes that qualified voters would watch your virtual budget hearings, your candidate nights and return those ballots in support of your hard work.

But, I sincerely want to thank you and applaud your efforts! Your support of all children is something that this entire county and our state should be celebrating. I also want to thank our officers this year; Kathy Dillon, Amy Thomas, John Abbott and Mike Suffoletto for their advice and their guidance over the entire year, but certainly since we have also had to cancel meetings and move association business to email and online venues. My staff; Mary and Beckie have had to communicate from afar, but we have worked seamlessly to carry on our work and I am grateful to have such a dedicated and supportive team.

"We are all in this together" has been the mantra for this time, but this is not a new motto for you. This is how you function every day, every year on behalf of every child.

*Sherry*

# 2019-2020 Highlights at MCSBA

## *Advocating, Educating, Representing*

### **A Year of Advocacy Adjustments in Pursuit of Public School Funding**

Members assessed the impact of a record numbers of bills passed in the 2019 legislative session on schools and tried to determine if the pace of legislative changes would continue in the coming year. Members applauded passage of several pieces of legislation. Approval of a TRS reserve, an increase in the BOCES Superintendent salary cap and uncoupling APPR evaluations from student testing, all of which returned some flexibility and local control back to Boards of Education.

In the fall, both the Assembly and Senate had several regional roundtables on the functionality of NYS Foundation Aid formula. Members worried adverse changes to the formula would be rushed through in the current year. Added financial uncertainty was introduced with the announcement of a \$6 billion dollar shortfall in the State budget, largely due to Medicaid overruns.

Members traveled to Albany in December and met with officials from Assembly Ways and Means, Senate Finance and the Governor's Division of Budget. A laser focus on preserving foundation aid and voicing opposition to the Governor's proposal to fold expense based aids into the formula and cap reimbursements were a priority for members in attendance.

Eighty nine members attended the annual Legislative Breakfast in February and met with County, State and Federal legislators to discuss the need for all three branches of government to work together to limit demands on school budgets and support funding for public education. This was the first time all three branches were invited to the breakfast and members were given two opportunities to sit with officials from different levels of government. The format was well received by all.

Board members opted not return to Albany in the spring, instead choosing to meet directly with legislators in their local home offices to discuss the increasingly difficult budget year. Unfortunately mid March, in-person meetings were halted by the Covid-19 outbreak which essentially shut down all business operations and closed schools for the year. Legislative efforts were then refocused on Federal Pandemic Relief as state funds were increasingly consumed fighting the unprecedented outbreak in NYS. Locally district were forced to divert district resources to on-line continuity of learning efforts, and meal service for students and their families sheltering at home.

The year ended with an uncertain future for local public schools. The Covid-19 outbreak continued, federal funding to states remained mired in partisan politics and big changes in our local representation lay ahead as seven veteran local NYS senators and assembly members were not seeking reelection.

### **The Communication Outreach Advisory Committee met to develop talking points on a variety of issues affecting school districts.**

The COAC Committee, in support of MCSBA member boards, completed talking points on the 2020 Census and the need for Federal funding as a result of the covid-19 outbreak. A complete and accurate count on the 2020 Census was more important than ever as it influences critical funding for education at both the State and Federal level for the next 10 years.

Members of the 2019-2020 COAC: Sherry Johnson (MCSBA Executive Director), Kim McCluski (Pitt, Chair), Kathy Dillon (CC, B2, President MCSBA), Loretta Orologio (CC, Superintendent), Catherine Dean (Pen), Michael Suffoletto (Web, MCSBA Past President). Jo Anne Antonacci (B2, Superintendent), Sue Casey (Web), John Abbott (B2, MCSBA Treasurer), Mark Kokanovich (Bri), and Beckie Schultz (Program Director, MCSBA).

# 2019-2020 Community Connections

MCSBA collaborates with a number of groups to promote public education. MCSBA's "Best for Less" publication was included in a report required by NYS on efficiencies and shared services filed by the **Monroe County Executive** in 2018.

## ACT for Education

### A Community Together for Education



The committee continued to work with Causewave Community Partners, expanding their **Partners Program** that was launched in late 2018 to increase the

variety of ways sponsors can choose to support public schools. Partnerships with community organizations and schools during both "Celebrate Public Schools Week" and "Small Business Week" earned significant media attention and provided students with enriching activities. Act for Education also has representation on the Rochester Chamber of Commerce's Education Committee and is actively trying to expand work force development and career opportunities for area students.

## MCEC

The **Monroe County Education Coalition (MCEC)** includes representatives from 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 members identified items for joint advocacy in 2019-2020, and prepared a bulletin entitled "The 2020 Census- A Complete Count Matters for Public Education", to help educate their constituent members on the connection between the census and its impact on critical funding for Public education.



**Members included:** Kathleen Dillion (CC, B2, MCSBA President), Amy Thomas (Pitt, MCSBA Vice President), John Abbott (B2, MCSBA Treasurer), Michael Suffoletto (Web, MCSBA Past President), Carrie Andrews (NYSUT), Bruce Capron (Monroe County Chapter, Association of School Business Officials), Jori Cincotta (Genesee Valley PTA), Dr. W. Bruce Gorman (School Administrators Association of NYS), Scott Steinberg (WI Teacher's Association, President and Monroe County Federation of Teachers, President), Judy Wegman (Monroe County Federation of Teachers), Loretta Orologio (CC, Superintendent, Monroe County Council of School Superintendents, Past President), Tom Putnam (Pen, Superintendent, Monroe County Council of School Superintendents, President), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA Executive Director), Beckie Schultz (MCSBA Program Director).



## 2019-2020 Representing

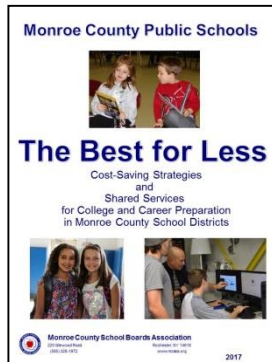
### By Getting our Messages Out

The **MCSBA website** provides easy access to information and programing offered by the Association for member districts and the general public.

Each Friday, MCSBA emails an electronic news clips 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 federal, state, and county officials, college presidents, attorneys and the media in addition to Association members.

MCSBA also works with local media to help them understand and explain issues to the wider community. Various Association happenings are also regularly posted on Twitter.

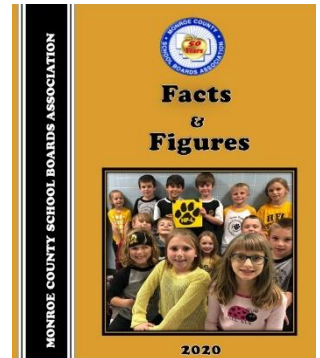


### Facts & Figures

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

### Best for Less

This free publication, available in print and can be down loaded from the MCSBA website. It highlights the ways member districts utilize shared services and cost saving strategies to expand the quality and variety of services provided by the county's public schools. Collaborations between schools, colleges, businesses and other community organizations that promote college and career readiness for students of all ages are showcased.



## 2019-2020 Conferences

Each year, MCSBA presents a number of conferences that attract school board members, clerks, and administrators from within and beyond Monroe County. In 2019-2020, MCSBA held three district clerk seminars, a law conference in collaboration with the MCSBA School Attorney's Committee. Two SED approved training seminars for new members on Finance and Governance were also held. Each is designed to inform and enhance professional development for our members. The coronavirus out break forced the cancellation of MCSBA's Prospective Candidate Seminar. An FAQ on board service was generated to support prospective candidates understanding of how to run for a Board of Education seat and their role should they become elected.



**We are always grateful to our presenters who dedicate their time and expertise to our members! Above are some of the presenters from this year's conferences and seminars.**

## Committee Programs for members

The **Information Exchange Committee** was led by Co-Chairs **Nancy Pickering (Hil)** and **Valerie Baum (Pitt)**. This year's seminars included a wide variety of topics requested by members.



**Using the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to Improve Student Well Being**



**JUULing and E-Cigarettes & Your Students Health**

**Taking the Unconscious Out of Bias**



**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

**Mental Health- Programming & Collaborations in Monroe County**



**Partnering to Support Restorative Practices in Schools**



**Cultivating Life Long Readers in the 21st Century**



## 2019-2020 Educating

The Labor Relations Committee led by **Gary Bracken (Spe)** and **Amy West (HFL)**, shared negotiations updates at each meeting and discussed:



**Strategies for Moving Staff to High Deductible Plans**



**Staff Recruitment Avenues**



**RASHP Up-Date**



**Negotiations 101....  
Strategies & Your  
Role as a Board  
Member**



**Developing Leadership Capacity**



**Reserves – What  
Every Board  
Member Should  
Understand**

## Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee prepares and promotes the Association's legislative positions. This year, under the leadership of **Dennis Laba (B2)** and **Mark Kokanovich (Bri)** the committee finalized two position papers entitled "*Bus Drivers Needed*" and "*Impact of Staff Shortages On School Districts*" detailing local staffing challenges.

The committee also arranged and promoted meetings with NYS officials locally in the fall and spring, hosted trip to Albany in December and a Legislative Breakfast in February. As members looked to rebrand and focus their legislative advocacy, the Committee decided to forego the two-day advocacy trip to Albany. Members instead met with legislators locally.



**Right:** Members In Albany waiting for meeting with representative from the Governor's office. **Left:** Members met in Fall with Senator Funke and Senator Robach.



**Above:** Executive Director S. Johnson joins other members and legislators at a press conference called by U.S. Senator Schumer on debt relief for teachers.



**Above:** U.S. Congressman Morelle met with members at the MCSBA Legislative Breakfast in February.



**Below:** Association members and Superintendents met with Assemblyman Bronson and Monroe County Legislators at the Breakfast.

**Above:** State Assembly members and U.S. Congressman Morelle address Association members at MCSBA Legislative Breakfast.





## 2019-2020 Affiliate Network

Former MCSBA members and leaders gathered in January for an event at Geva sponsored by the MCSBA Affiliate Network. Executive Director Sherry Johnson provided an up-date on MCSBA and current legislative issues and Joanna Grosodonia, Honorary Trustee and Former Board Chair for Geva, briefly spoke about programs that support MCSBA constituent schools. Members had the option to stay for a play after the meeting.



Executive Director S. Johnson, former Board of Education members network and enjoy refreshments at the affiliate event at Geva .



**Above:** B. Cutrona and M. Burns from the Affiliate Steering Committee introduce Joanna Grosodonia, Honorary Trustee and former Board Chair of Geva.

## 2019-2020 Mentoring Opportunities

Each year minor changes are made to the two annual training seminars to better serve our members and emphasize best practices for Board of Education members. A veteran Board of Education member was added last year to the Prospective Candidates Seminar in addition to a Board of Education member typically in their first term. Exposure to members with different lengths of service was well received by the candidates and remained in place going forward. Similarly, a panel of Board Presidents presented instead of a single veteran board member at the New Governance Seminar. The panel created a more interactive format for new members and really gave them a broader perspective of board service and mutual support across districts again this year. Both BOCES superintendents presented at the New Governance seminar and were able to provide a more global perspective of the role of superintendents across the county as well as the support BOCES provides to districts.



**Above:** K. Dillon (B2, CC), G. Bracken (Spt), A. Thomas (Pitt) and B. Cook (RH) present at the New Governance Seminar on the roles and responsibilities of Boards of Education.

**Left:** D. White (B1, District Superintendent) and J. Antonacci (B2, District Superintendent) present at the New Governance Seminar on the role of the Superintendent.

## 2019-2020 MCSBA Standing Committee Members

District	Steering	Executive	Legislative Committee	Labor Relations	Information Exchange
BOCES #1		Dan White Robert Dickson	Tom Nespeca Maureen Nupp Fred Shippey	Bryan Buttram Maureen Nupp	Robert Dickson Sora Sachs Nancy Semal
BOCES #2	JoAnne Antonacci John Abbott Dennis Laba	JoAnne Antonacci Dennis Laba John Abbott	John Abbott John Heise Dennis Laba *	Dennis Laba Kathy Dillon John Abbott	Chuck Phillips John Heise JoAnne Antonacci Dennis Laba Tim Dobbertin
Brighton	Mark Kokanovich	Dr. Kevin McGowan Mark Kokanovich	Mark Kokanovich * Karen Hatch	Dr. Marvin Sachs Karen Hatch	Julene Gilbert Christina Lee
Brockport		James Fallon, Interim Terry Ann Carbone	Terry Ann Carbone Jeff Harradine	Robert Lewis Mike Turbeville	Kathy Robertson Mike Turbeville
Churchville-Chili	Kathy Dillon Lori Orolagio	Lori Orolagio Cheryl Repass Kathy Dillon	Kathy Dillon	Steve Hogan Kristen Brumbaugh	Mike Iacucci Jon Payne
East Irondequoit		Mary Grow Kim Lasher	Patricia Storm	Kim Lasher Rich Oxley Phil Oberst  Phil Oberst	Pat Storm Kim Lasher Mary Grow
East Rochester		Dick Stutzman, Interim Jennifer Majewski Lesinski Vincent Antonicelli	Vincent Antonicelli	Tim Henry	Jennifer Majewski Lesinski
Fairport		Brett Provenzano Peter Forsgren	Joyce Kostyk Brett Provenzano	Peter Forsgren Damon Buffum	Kevin Glover Marty Cardona Judy O'Leary-Sargeant
Gates Chili		Christopher Dailey Jeffrey Pettenski	Frank Muscato Andre Bailey	Frank Muscato	Kerri Keyes Michael Bailey
Greece		Kathy Graupman Sean McCabe	Sharita Traywick	Bill Maloney Tracey Farmer	Terry Melore
Hilton	Nancy Pickering	Casey Kosiorek Mark Hilburger	Nancy Pickering Brian O'Connor	Tom Abbott	Nancy Pickering *
Holley		Brian Bartalo Robin Silvis	Mark Porter	Anne Winkley	John Heise
Honeoye Falls-Lima	Amy West	Gene Mancuso Carol Bellavia	Joe Alati Carolyn Ross Gene Mancuso Amy West	Amy West * Gary Stottler Stephanie Templeton Bruce Capron	David Francis David Ghidui Gene Mancuso +
Kendall		Julie Christensen Lisa Levett	Nadine Hanlon Lisa Levett Julie Christensen	Charles Patt Jason ReQua Julie Christensen	Chaley Swift
Penfield	Tom Putnam	Dr. Thomas Putnam Catherine Dean	Catherine Dean Mark Elledge	Barbara Babiarz Tom Putnam	Emily Belcer Lisa Benati-Chidsey Tom Putnam
Pittsford	Amy Jo Thomas Kim McCluski Valerie Baum	Mike Pero Amy Jo Thomas	Valerie Baum Pete Sullivan Amy Thomas	Irene Narotsky Ted Aroesty Amy Thomas	Valerie Baum * Irene Narotsky Amy Thomas
Rochester		Terry Dade Van White		Cynthia Elliott	
Rush-Henrietta		Bo Wright Jennifer Laird	Bob Cook Bo Wright	James O'Brien Mia Abdullah Andy Whitmore Patrick McCue	Annmarie Strzyzynski Nichole LaPlaca Nerlande Anselme
Spencerport	Gary Bracken	Daniel Milgate Kevin Hutton	Kevin Hutton Gary Bracken	Gary Bracken * Michael Micelli	Kate Czarniecki Jody Gillette
Victor		Tim Terranova Debbie Palumbo-Sanders	Tim DeLucia Mike Vistoecco	Tim DeLucia	Tim DeLucia Mike Vistoecco
Webster	Mike Suffoletto Tammy Gurowski	Carmen Gumina Tammy Gurowski Mike Suffoletto	Jan Stroege Sue Casey Brian Freeman	Linda Diaguardi Mike Suffoletto Dave Swinson	Tammy Gurowski Mike Suffoletto
West Irondequoit		Aaron Johnson John Vay	Ann Cunningham Matthew Metras Matthew Sullivan	David Long John Vay	Matthew Fink Matthew Sullivan
Wheatland-Chili		Dr. Deborah Leh James Musshafen	Cindy Dawson	Beth Nolan	Courtney Panek Cindy Dawson

KEY: \* Standing Committee: chairpersons

+ Superintendent representatives from the Monroe County Council of Superintendents



## 2019-2020 Departures

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



**Robert Genthner**  
Monroe One BOCES  
Board of Education  
Member



**Fred Shippey**  
Monroe One BOCES  
Board of Education  
Member  
Former Penfield CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**George Howard**  
Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES  
Board of Education  
Member,  
Former Wheatland Chili CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Marv Sachs**  
Brighton CSD  
Board of Education  
Member  
Former Labor Relations  
Co-Chair



**Lesli Myers-Small**  
Brockport CSD  
Superintendent



**Ronald Cooper**  
East Irondequoit CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Richard Oxley**  
East Irondequoit CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Gary Pawlak**  
East Irondequoit CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Kevin Glover**  
Fairport CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Raymond Banks**  
Gates Chili CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**James Sawers**  
Greece CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Mary Caitlin Wight**  
Greece CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Christopher Neff**  
Honeoye Fall-lima CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



## 2019-2020 Departures - continued

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



**Kim McCluski**  
Pittsford CSD  
Board of Education  
Member  
COAC Committee Chair  
Former MCSBA President,  
Former Labor Relations Co-Chair,



**Calvin Frelief**  
Penfield CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Robert Cook**  
Rush-Henrietta CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Judith Davis**  
Rochester City SD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Elizabeth Hallmark**  
Rochester City SD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Terry Dade**  
Superintendent  
Rochester City SD



**Debbie Palumbo-Saunders**  
Victor CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Michael Vistocco**  
Victor CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Janis Strege**  
Webster CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Jody Gillette**  
Spencerport CSD  
Board of Education  
Member



**Deborah Leh**  
Superintendent  
Wheatland-Chili CSD

### **Not Pictured:**

**Nadine Hanlon**  
Kendall CSD  
Board of Education Member

**Jason ReQua**  
Kendall CSD  
Board of Education Member

**Lawrence Young**  
Honeoye Falls-Lima CSD  
Board of Education Member



# 51<sup>st</sup> MCSBA Annual Meeting Agenda

5:30 pm **Social Time**

6:00 pm **Musical Performance:**  
Churchville-Chili High School  
Varsity Vocals

Lead by Erik Reinhart

6:30 pm **Dinner**



7:30 pm **51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Keynote**

\*Welcome and Introductions

\*Message from NYSSBA

\*Keynote Address

\*Special Recognition

\*Vote on Resolutions

Committee of the Nominating

Committee

\*Election of 2020-2021 Officers

\*Remarks by the President-Elect

Keynote

Kathleen Dillon

Kathleen Dillon

Sherry Johnson

Michael Suffoletto

Kathleen Dillon

8:30 pm **Adjournment**

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

**HUNT** E | A | S

**Cancelled: due to Coronavirus Outbreak meeting restrictions.**