



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

MCSBA
52 years
of Continuously Striving for Excellence for the Children
in our Public Schools



2020-2021 Steering Committee Members: Top row: Amy Thomas (Pitt, MCSBA President), Gary Bracken (Spt, Vice President), John Abbott (B2, MCSBA Treasurer), Kathleen Dillon (CC, B2, MCSBA Past President), Tammy Gurowski (Web, Information Exchange Co-Chair), Kerri Keyes (GC, Information Exchange Co-Chair), Frank Muscato (GC, Labor Relations Co-Chair), Robert Dickson (B1, Labor Relations Co-Chair).

Bottom row: Valerie Baum (Pitt, Legislative Co-Chair), Matthew Metras (WI, Legislative Co-Chair), Amy West (HFL, COAC Co-Chair), Kim McCluski (B1, COAC Co-Chair), Nancy Pickering (Hil), Mark Kokanovich (Bri), Michael Pero (Pitt, Superintendent), Kathleen Graupman (Gr, Superintendent), Daniel White (B1, District Superintendent).

MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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www.mcsba.org

2020-2021 OFFICERS

Amy Thomas, President
 Gary Bracken, Vice President
 John Abbott, Treasurer
 Kathleen Dillon, President

STAFF

Sherry Johnson, Executive Director
 Beckie Schultz, Program Director
 Mary Talbot, Office Manager



Dear Members,

When I wrote this page last year, it was to document how all of you worked through seemingly impossible circumstances to meet the challenges of providing education during a historic pandemic. And yet, here we are, finishing up another school year and still reeling from many of the same challenges.

School opened in September in a hopeful way. Many districts were able to get some students back 3 days a week and others even 5 days. Other districts due to spacing and staffing constraints needed to remain fully virtual. Executive Orders from the Governor drove your decision making and most of you crazy as you tried to discern conflicting guidance and short windows for compliance. Hope faded for full reopening as the community spread continued to keep our county in red or orange zones. It was only through your advocacy that districts in those zones were given permission to stay as open during this time. That didn't stop others from filing a lawsuit demanding that you fully reopen classrooms with no restrictions.

Vaccination development, approval and rollout buoyed spirits and schools were able to open more fully this past spring for elementary students. But guidance from the CDC and NYSDOH still kept schools in hybrid models for our older students. Parents, overwhelmed and increasingly frustrated, filled your board meetings with accusations, misinformation and personal attacks. Social media became a digital pitch fork and torches version of the angry mob of old. No one wanted to listen or understand you wanted what they wanted; to have school fully reopened for kids. That none of you would have chosen this for your school aged children or grandchildren on top of having to bear the brunt of the vitriol that was spit at you. But, you took an oath of office and as leaders, you abided by the rules while at the same time, fighting for local control to make decisions that you thought would be in the best interest and safety of students.

As your executive director, I am in awe of all of you. You are volunteers, you do this to give back to your community. You have been through hell on so many levels and didn't lower your standards of behavior, one iota. Indeed, you stood as the example for students and the community on how to deal with adversity, and controversy. I have been humbled by the conversations that we have had this year as you shared your stories and how you continued to collaborate on talking points and advocacy to make sure that the work and the support for one another didn't get lost in the craziness of the year. And, you took the lessons learned and made lemonade out of lemons. Most importantly, when it would have been so easy to do, you didn't walk away.

The words to describe this year have all been used to the point of cliché. We are all battle weary and are in need of rest and sustenance. I hope that you are all able to avail yourselves of both. Please know that we continue to be here for you and that we will always be at the ready to support you and the work that you do. Please believe that what you do on behalf of your students and your community has never been more needed or more important. Thank you.

Sherry

2020-2021 Highlights at MCSBA

Advocating, Educating, Representing

Sustained Advocacy Finally Results in Assistance for Local Districts

The school year began as the last one ended with an uncertain future for local public schools.

In September, NYS's financial future remained tenuous due to the on-going COVID -19 pandemic. Schools began transitioning from remote to in-person learning with the looming threat of a 20% budget cut. Federal dollars from two stimulus packages supplanted foundation aid reductions but left schools with no additional money to address growing COVID related expenses.

Through the fall, members identified their legislative priorities for the coming year, readied talking points about needs for keeping schools open and updated existing positions papers to include the impact of COVID -19 on all aspects of their programs. They also met with local members of the Board of Regents seeking support for re-opening schools, strengthening SED, direction on the future of state assessments and their insight on reimagining schools post pandemic.

After the November elections, advocacy began in earnest as eight new legislators were elected to represent Monroe County. MCSBA members welcomed the newly elected NYS Senate and Assembly members to their legislative standing committee meeting in February. Legislators were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and speak about their priorities. MCSBA members followed this session with individual zoom meetings with all the returning legislators as the pandemic continued to make a travel to Albany impossible.

The newly elected legislators in collaboration with their more veteran colleagues represented Upstate New York with a strong united voice. They proved to be an energetic and informed on local education needs, helping to insure expense based aids were not combined and reimbursements for COVID related transportation cost from the 2019/20 school year were received. They fought for full funding of foundation aid to help districts to recover from two continuous years of flat aid. While the eventual agreement on the phase in of foundation aid is not complete until 2024, the agreement left schools in a more favorable and predictable financial position than they had been in years.

Passage of a third federal stimulus package in March provided much needed support for costs related to COVID. Districts were careful to educate their communities that these funds could not be used for tax relief and would create financial cliff for districts when the funds are gone if they are used for ongoing staffing and programs. MCSBA's COAC committee prepared talking points that assisted Board of Education members with community outreach.

While the pace of COVID related executive orders and regulations changes slowed as legislators assumed more potential oversight over the Governor, schools districts continued to struggle with constantly changing guidelines for fully re-opening that were difficult for their communities to absorb and understand. MCSBA members and their associated districts continued to advocate for a definitive chain of command and protocols that would allow schools to fully reopen safely. MCSBA members remain optimistic schools will be able to fully reopen in September of 2021.

Transition in leadership at the federal level also ushered in a more education friendly environment with for schools with Miguel Cardona, a seasoned educator and former Connecticut Commissioner of Education, named as the U.S. Secretary of Education. MCSBA members scheduled meetings with all three federal legislators in spring to begin discussing more long-term policy issues related to assessments and needed changes to strengthen and sustain public education.

2020-2021 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

ACT for Education is an unprecedented initiative by public schools in the Monroe One and Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES districts, RCSD, area businesses, and community members. The mission of the committee is to deliver positive messaging about our local school districts and encourage community support of public education.

ACT has continued to work with Causewave Community Partners, expanding their programming with a series of bi-weekly webcasts on issues related to public education. Topics included such diverse subjects such as social/emotional learning, health updates, facilities considerations in response to COVID and co-curricular activities and sports just to name a few. The webcasts were hosted by local superintendents and have been well received by viewers.

Programming during both "Celebrate Public Schools Week" and "Small Business Week" further showcased partnerships with local business that benefit Monroe County students. Act for Education 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.

A Community Together
for Education



2020-2021 Representing

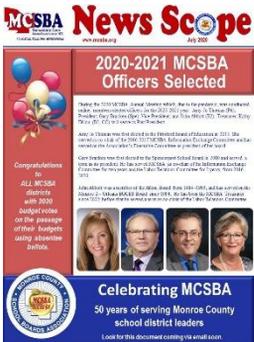
By Getting our Messages Out

The **MCSBA website** provides easy access to information and programming 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.



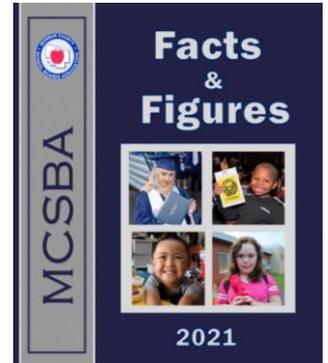
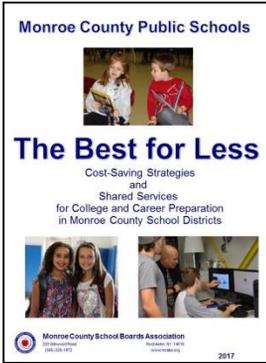
2020-2021 Representing

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 downloaded 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.



2020-2021 Conferences

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, MCSBA has continued to offer a number of conferences that attract school board members, clerks, and administrators from within and beyond Monroe County.

In 2020-2021, MCSBA held two district clerk seminars, a law conference in collaboration with the MCSBA School Attorney's Committee and a seminar for prospective school board candidates. 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.



This year in particular we are grateful to our presenters who dedicated their time and expertise to our members when they had so many other demands on their schedules ! Above are some of the presenters from this year's conferences and seminars.

Committee Programs for members

The Information Exchange Committee was led by Kerri Keyes (GC) and Tammy Gurowski (Web). This year's seminars included a wide variety of topics requested by members. A full sequence of programing continued shifting to virtual settings as dictated by COVID infection rates.



Reflections on Virtual Learning:
Impacts on the classroom, looking
back and moving forward



Re-Opening Schools
with Mental Health & Equity in Mind



The Digital Divide



Supporting and Monitoring
Language Acquisition for
English Language Learners



Impact of COVID on Students
Preparing for College



Code of Conduct in a
Virtual Environment



Superintendent Equity Initiatives

2020-2021 Educating

The Labor Relations Committee led by Robert Dickson (B1) and Frank Muscato (GC), shared negotiations updates and similar to the Information Exchange Committee continued with a full sequence of programming despite the pandemic with a mixture of remote and in-person meetings.



**Developing Scenario Based
Emergency Response Drills**



**Unemployment Benefits-
Untangling issues related to COVID**



Work Force Availability



Negotiations & COVID-19



Labor Relations In Catastrophic Times



RASHP Up-Date



Evaluating Staff In A Virtual Environment

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee prepares and promotes the Association’s legislative positions. This year, under the leadership of **Valerie Baum (Pitt)** and **Matthew Metras (WI)** the committee updated two position papers on “The NYS Constitution and Public Education” and “Mandates”.



The committee held meetings with NYS officials and Board of Regents members locally as the pandemic prevented travel to Albany. Members continued to rebrand their legislative advocacy, as eight new legislators began representing area districts. Committee members found themselves among the most active in the Association.



In July, MCSBA members attended a press conference hosted by Victor CSD with US Senator Chuck Schumer to show support for the CCCERA legislation to provide direct aid to schools.

Members of the Legislative committee met with Regent Norwood and Vice Chancellor Brown in November to discuss SED support for schools and its plan for reimaging schools moving forward.



Assemblyman J. Gallahan

Senator J. Cooney

Senator E. Rath

Senator S. Brouk

Assemblyman J. Jensen

Assemblyman D. Meeks

Assemblywoman J Lunsford

In January committee members worked to finalize their legislative priorities prior to a Zoom meeting with newly elected NYS Senators and Assembly members in early February.

2020-2021 Advocating

MCSBA members met with veteran legislators representing their respective districts to discuss the Association's legislative priorities and district needs through the spring budget season. Legislators were more than happy to meet in a virtual format.



Assemblyman Bronson



Assemblywoman Clark



Assemblyman Hawley



Senator Helming



Senator Ortt



Senator Gallivan



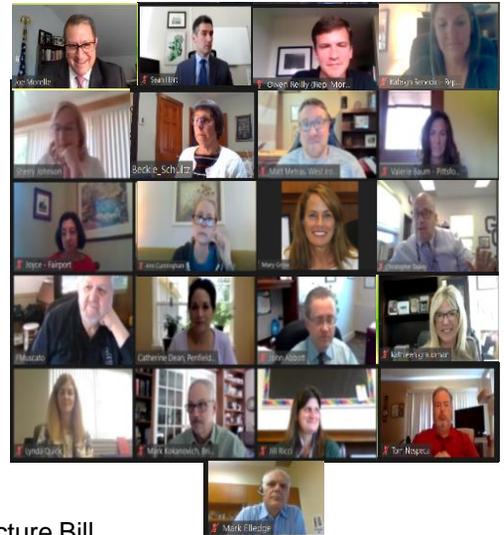
Assemblywoman Byrnes

2020-2021 Advocating



Members met with **Jarred Jones**, Deputy State Director Office of US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, **Chris Zeltmann**, Regional Director Office of Senator Chuck Schumer and **Andrew Cook**, Deputy Director Office of Senator Chuck Schumer.

U.S. Congressman Joseph Morelle, Sean Hart, Chief of Staff (Rochester), Owen Riley, Lead Aide on Education and Labor Committees (Washington, D.C.), Kaleigh Benedict, Deputy District Director & Community Outreach (Rochester).



Topics:

- Thank you for Federal Stimulus Funding/ Infrastructure Bill
- Barriers to Fully Reopening Schools
- Work Force Shortages and Availability Long-term.
- CDL License Modification for School Bus Drivers
- Status of Loan Forgiveness/ Need for Title II funding
- Idea Reauthorization/ Potential for Litigation on Services During the Pandemic
- Charter and Community Schools
- Child Care Credits

The Communications 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, had an extremely busy year. The committee completed talking points on:

- Fully Reopening Schools to address legal requirements and outstanding issues that remained before schools could fully reopen,
- School Budgets to explain budget support for academic programs and maintenance of safe and secure facilities as well as the consequences of a budget defeat,
- Board of Education Leadership and District Oversight to explain the duties as well as the state and federal oversight of Board of Education members to potential candidates.

A zoom meeting format was used due to the pandemic.

Members of the 2020-2021 COAC committee include: Kim McCluski (B1, Co-Chair), Amy West (HFL Co-Chair), Amy Thomas (Pitt, MCSBA President), Gary Bracken (Spt, MCSBA Vice President), Kathy Dillon (CC, B2, MCSBA Past President), John Abbott (B2, EI, MCSBA Treasurer), Sue Casey (Web), Catherine Dean (Pen), Mark Kokanovich (Bri), Jo Anne Antonacci (B2, District Superintendent), Bo Wright (RH, Superintendent), Sherry Johnson (MCSBA, Executive Director), and Beckie Schultz (Program Director, MCSBA).



2020-2021 Member Networking Opportunities

The Board Leadership committee, made up of Board of Education presidents and vice presidents, turned out to be one of the Association's most important offerings this year. The meetings for members to network with their peers to share ideas and concerns with each other of regarding their leadership roles and responsibilities. Members met throughout the year to support each other and problem solve through the ever-changing issues related to student and staff safety in the pandemic and efforts to re-open schools. Members valued the meetings and found them extremely helpful in navigating such a challenging and unprecedented year.



Similarly, the district clerk's seminars that are offered by the Association annually in spring and fall helped district clerks support each other and navigate through a number of pandemic related issues in the past two years. Most notably was the successful all-absentee school budget vote in 2020 (on extremely short notice) and the facilitation of orderly and respectful board business meetings in 2021. These seminars included topics self-selected by the clerks and also served as critical networking and mentoring opportunities.

2020-2021 Affiliate Network

In March former MCSBA members, now part of the MCSBA Affiliate Network, gathered via Zoom to receive an update on current issues facing our schools as well as to re-connect with one another.

MCSBA President Amy Thomas (Pit) reviewed what our districts accomplished as they coped with the pandemic which included providing food for families in need, increasing electronic connectivity, conducting all absentee balloting for 2020 budget and board elections, developing of hybrid instruction models, conducting professional development in technology for staff, developing of certified COVID-19 labs, finding solutions to shortages of bus drivers and substitute teachers, adjusting to sudden allowance for sports and planning for fully re-opening schools.

MCSBA Treasurer John Abbott (B2, EI) outlined anticipated state and federal financial supports for the coming year.

MCSBA Executive Director Sherry Johnson described partnerships with other community groups in dealing with the pandemic and other issues.



2020-2021 MCSBA Standing Committee Members

District	Steering	Executive	Legislative Committee	Labor Relations	Information Exchange
BOCES #1	Dan White Kim McCluski Bob Dickson	Dan White Robert Dickson Kim McCluski (COAC)	Tom Nespeca Maureen Nupp Kim McCluski Lisa Latten	Bryan Buttram Maureen Nupp Bob Dickson* Scott Covell	Robert Dickson Sora Sachs Nancy Semal Scott Covell
BOCES #2	John Abbott	JoAnne Antonacci Dennis Laba John Abbott	Kathy Dillon Dennis Laba John Abbott	John Abbott John Heise	Chuck Phillips Lisa VenVertloh JoAnne Antonacci Tim Dobbertin
Brighton	Mark Kokanovich	Dr. Kevin McGowan Mark Kokanovich	Mark Kokanovich Karen Hatch	Larry Davis Andrea Constanza Susan Gasparino	Julene Gilbert Christina Lee Susan Gasparino
Brockport		Sean Bruno Terry Ann Carbone	Terry Ann Carbone Jeff Harradine	Robert Lewis Mike Turbeville	Kathy Robertson Mike Turbeville
Churchville-Chili	Kathy Dillon	Lori Orologio Cheryl Repass Kathy Dillon	Kathy Dillon	Steve Hogan Kristen Brumbaugh	Mike Iacucci Jon Payne
East Irondequoit		Mary Grow Kim Lasher	Carol Watt Jill Ricci	Kim Lasher Bob Crocetti Phil Oberst	Pat Storm Idris Smith Mary Grow
East Rochester		James Haugh Jennifer Majewski Lesinski	Vincent Antonicelli	Tim Henry	Jennifer Majewski Lesinski
Fairport		Brett Provenzano Peter Forsgren	Joyce Kostyk Erica Belois-Pacer Brett Provenzano ++	Damon Buffum Peter Forsgren	Marty Cardona Judy O'Leary-Sargeant
Gates Chili	Frank Muscato Kerri Keyes	Christopher Dailey Jeffrey Pettenski	Frank Muscato	Frank Muscato*	Kerri Keyes*
Greece	Kathy Graupman	Kathy Graupman Sean McCabe	Sharita Traywick Ryan McDonald	Bill Maloney Robert LaPlaca	Tracey Farmer
Hilton	Nancy Pickering	Casey Kosiorek Mark Hilburger	Brian O'Connor	Tom Abbott	Nancy Pickering
Holley		Brian Bartalo Robin Silvis	Andrea Newman	Anne Winkley	Brian Bartalo ++
Honeoye Falls-Lima	Amy West	Gene Mancuso Carol Bellavia Amy west (COAC)	Joe Alati Carol Bellavia Gene Mancuso Caralyn Ross	Gary Stottler Stephanie Templeton Bruce Capron	Jeff Klein Amy West David Francis David Ghidiu Renee Williams
Kendall		Julie Christensen Lisa Levett	Lisa Levett Julie Christensen ++	Charles Patt Julie Christensen	Chaley Swift
Penfield		Dr. Thomas Putnam Mark Elledge	Catherine Dean Mark Elledge	Barbara Babiarez Tom Putnam ++	Emily Belcer Shaun Hakiel
Pittsford	Amy Jo Thomas Valerie Baum Mike Pero	Mike Pero Amy Jo Thomas	Valerie Baum* Irene Narotsky Amy Thomas	Pete Sullivan Ted Aroesty Amy Thomas	Robin Scott Irene Narotsky Rene Sanchez-Kazacos Amy Thomas
Rochester		Lesli Myers-Small Van White		Cynthia Elliott	
Rush-Henrietta		Bo Wright ++ Diane McBride	Diane McBride 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	Michael Micelli Gary Bracken	Kate Czarnecki Lori Stone
Victor		Tim Terranova Kristin Elliott	Tim DeLucia Kristin Elliott	Tim DeLucia Kristin Elliott	Tim DeLucia Kristin Elliott
Webster	Tammy Gurowski	Carmen Gumina Tammy Gurowski	Sue Casey Maria Rigillo Brian Freeman	Linda Dioguardi Mike Suffoletto Dave Swinson Carmen Gumina ++	Tammy Gurowski* Mike Alt (noon mtgs) Janice Richardson (4pm mtg) Carmen Gumina ++ Matthew Sullivan
West Irondequoit	Matthew Metras	Aaron Johnson David Long	Ann Cunningham Matthew Metras*	David Long John Vay	
Wheatland-Chili		Lynda Quick James Musshafen	Cindy Dawson Lynda Quick	Beth Nolan	Courtney Panek Cindy Dawson

KEY: * Standing Committee: chairpersons

++ Superintendent representatives from the Monroe County Council of Superintendents

2020-2021 Departures

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



Sora Sachs

Monroe One BOCES
Board of Education Member
Former Information Exchange Co-Chair



Lisa Ven Vertloh

Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES
Board of Education Member



Constance Rockow

Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES
Board of Education Member



Mark Kokanovich

Brighton CSD
Board of Education Member
Former MCSBA President
Former Legislative Committee Co-Chair



Leon Tucker

Churchville-Chili CSD
Board of Education
Member



Idris Smith

East Irondequoit CSD
Board of Education
Member



Tim Henry

East Rochester Union Free District
Board of Education Member



Arlette Miller Smith

Fairport CSD
Board of Education
Member



Charles Patt

Kendall CSD
Board of Education
Member



Andre Bailey

Gates Chili CSD
Board of Education
Member



Ryan McDonald

Greece CSD
Board of Education
Member



Tom Abbott

Hilton CSD
Board of Education Member
Former Labor Relations Co-Chair



Russel Byer

Hilton CSD
Board of Education
Member



Melissa Ierian

Holley CSD
Board of Education Member



Joseph Alati

Honeoye Falls Lima CSD
Board of Education Member



David Ghidu

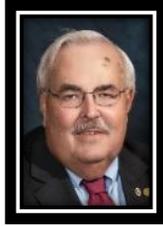
Honeoye Falls Lima CSD
Board of Education Member

2020-2021 Departures - continued



Mark Porter
Holley CSD
Board of Education Member

In memoriam:



John Heise
Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES
Board of Education Member, Holley CSD
Board of Education Member



Van White
Rochester City CSD
Board of Education Member



Willam Clark
Rochester City CSD
Board of Education Member



William Yaeger
Penfield CSD
Board of Education
Member



Irene Narotsky
Pittsford CSD
Board of Education Member
Former Labor Exchange Co-Chair
Former information Exchange
Co-Chair



Valerie Baum
Pittsford CSD
Board of Education Member
Legislative Committee Co-Chair,
Former Information Exchange
Co-Chair



James O'Brien
Rush-Henrietta CSD
Board of Education
Member



Nicole LaPlaca
Rush-Henrietta CSD
Board of Education
Member



Daniel Milgate
Superintendent
Spencerport CSD



Suzanne Casey
Webster CSD
Board of Education Member
Former MCSBA President



Michael Suffoletto
Webster CSD
Board of Education Member
Former MCSBA President
Former Information Exchange
Co-Chair



Carmen Gumina
Superintendent
Webster CSD



Michael Vetter
Victor CSD
Board of Education
Member



Michael Miceli
Spencerport CSD
Board of Education
Member



David Long
West Irondequoit CSD
Board of Education
Member



Dr. Meg Steckley
West Irondequoit CSD
Board of Education
Member



52nd MCSBA Annual Meeting Agenda

- 5:30 pm **Social Time**
- 6:00 pm **Musical Performance:**
Soloist and string trio
Pittsford CSD
- 6:30 pm **Dinner**
- 7:30 pm **52nd Annual Meeting**



- *Welcome and Introductions
- *Greetings from NYSSBA
- * ACT for Education Up-date
- * President's Remarks
and Special Recognitions
- * Executive Director's Remarks
- *Report of the Nominating Committee
and Election of 2021-2022 Officers
- *Remarks by the President-Elect

- Amy Thomas, Association President
- Jay Worona, Deputy Executive Director
- Jo Anne Antonacci, District Superintendent,
Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES
- Amy Thomas, Association President
- Sherry Johnson, Executive Director
- Kathleen Dillon, Association Past-President

8:30 pm **Adjournment**

Amy Thomas, Association President

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

