



Hello to all the 4CSBA members, It was great to see several of you at Leadership Forum held at the Woodcliff in Fairport on August 9th. I hope you found the program helpful and that it provided some new leadership ideas, even for those of us who may have held local board leadership positions in the past. I also met several of the new board members from Area 2 at the new Board member training workshops in Buffalo the weekend of July 19-20 and again on Friday August 22, at the Rochester Airport Marriott; both provided some good insight into what lies ahead in your school board career.

I can't believe this summer is almost over and the 2008-2009 school year is about to begin, time does seem to fly by. I hope for most of you the weather cooperated with your outdoor plans? Area 2 districts had significantly more rain than other parts of the state but all in all the summer weather cooperated with most outdoor plans. With the new school year just around the corner, I hope you all had a chance for a little R & R to renew and refresh yourselves.

As we start the new school year the "Tax Cap" discussion looms heavy on our minds and there may be times when NYSSBA asks you to reach out to your local elected officials to reinforce various point.

I hope to see many of you at the Albany Training Academy in early September there are always some new points to pick up.

In closing I hope you enjoy these last few weeks of summer, see you soon.

If you need to contact me information is listed below, I'd love to hear from you.

My email addresses are: mespeca@rochester.rr.com, or thomas.nespeca@carestreamhealth.com. Telephone numbers are: home 585-671-7858, work 585-627-6425, cell 585-747-9922. Feel free to use any of them and they all have voice mail so leave a message and I'll do my best to get back to you ASAP.

Tom



**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Anne Morgan, Committee Chair**

To quote from the Four County Goals "we will encourage individual members and boards to be more actively involved with legislative issues impacting education." To help us accomplish this, I encourage all Committee representatives and alternates to participate in the Legislative Committee meetings and workshops for 2008-2009. We provide stimulating conversation and hands-on opportunities to advocate for our school districts and the students we serve. And, if that's not enough to bring you to our Saturday morning workshops, we offer fresh bagels, hot coffee, and the opportunity to be involved as the Committee discusses the issues and prepares the Association's State, Federal, and Regents Position Papers. These sessions can always be counted on to provide you with up-to-the minute information on a variety of timely and important topics. Superintendents are invited to all Legislative Committee events and a welcome addition to the discussions and deliberations. I look forward to seeing you at the fall planning meeting on September 18 and your participation throughout 2008-2009.

News



NYSSBA

2008 SUMMER INSTITUTE

A weekend of professional development for both new and veteran board members
September 5 – 7, 2008
The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center
Albany, New York

32nd ANNUAL

EDUCATION LAW CONFERENCE
"Thriving vs. Surviving: Essential Knowledge That Matters to All Education Leaders"
September 11, 2008
The Double Tree Hotel
Syracuse, New York 13057

(In cooperation with The Study Council at Syracuse University)

Registration and additional information for both event available at the NYSSBA website which is linked through www.4csba.org



WELCOME BACK NEWARK AND WILLIAMSON

Four County is happy to welcome the board members from both Newark and Williamson to membership in the Association for 2008-2009. Please help us extend a warm welcome to the board members and their superintendents:

- From Newark - Roberta Colacino, Joe DeSanto, Susie Earl, Teresa Hurley, Tom Ledbetter, Yvonne MacTaggart, Nick Santino and Superintendent Henry Hahn
- From Williamson - Michael Collins, Linda Moll, Robert Wendler, Karen Fitzgerald Williams, Patrick Wright, and Superintendent Maria Ehresman

We look forward to their participation in programs and contributions to committee discussions and decision making.



DATES TO REMEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

General Membership Meeting

October 2, 2008

Guest speaker

ROBERT FREEMAN

Executive Director of the NYS Committee on Open Government
Learn about the requirements of the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Laws

Area 2 Proposed Resolutions Discussion

Saturday, October 4, 2008

Canandaigua Academy

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Watch for details!

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

Four County extends a warm welcome to our newest members. Elected to serve on their boards for the first time effective July 1, 2008 were:

- Kelly Lane (Bloomfield)
- Tom Reho (Canandaigua)
- Carl Christensen (Dundee)
- Kelly Sanson (Gananda)
- Hope Alexanian (Lyons)
- Nancy Sheremeta (Lyons)
- Melissa Bretz (Manchester-Shortsville)
- Diane Hixson (Manchester-Shortsville)
- Michael Liberty (Manchester-Shortsville)
- Margaret Ball (Marcus Whitman)
- Barbara Howard (Naples)
- Margo Ulmer (Naples)
- Yvonne Mac Taggart (Newark)
- Joseph DeSanto (Newark)
- Kari Durham (North Rose-Wolcott)
- Philip Rose (Sodus)
- Thorne Vander Broek (Sodus)
- David Terry, Jr. (South Seneca)
- Jennifer Davis (Victor)
- Dom Paz (Wayne)
- Karen Fitzgerald-Williams (Williamson)
- Robert Wendler (Williamson)

Welcome back to Jackie Brunner (Wayne) and Bill Gowan (Marcus Whitman) who have served their boards in the past and were re-elected in May.

Welcome also to John Mavromatis who began his term in Bloomfield during the 2007-2008 year.

And to newly appointed superintendents:

- Michael Chirco – Marcus Whitman
- Michael Hoose – Romulus
- Shawn VanScoy – Gananda

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

We look forward to seeing you at Association events throughout 2008-2009

Website Spotlight

www.cep-dc.org – The Center on Education Policy – results of a report "Has Student Achievement Increased Since 2002?: State Test Score Trends Through 2006-2007 suggests that accountability may help narrow the achievement gap."
<http://ies.ed.gov/> - The U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearing House findings about accelerated middle schools.

Both links found at www.4csba.org



**PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE
Kathy Malone, Committee Chair**

Program planning for the 2008-2009 general membership meetings started off with a highly energized committee meeting on June 17. ELEVEN school districts were represented by committee members: Bloomfield's Mike Ellis, Canandaigua's Donna Cotter, Clyde-Savannah's Kathy Malone (chairman), Dundee's Kristen Van Valkenberg, Geneva's Tom Scherer, Marcus Whitman's Tara Farmer, Penn Yan's Nancy Scher, Phelps-Clifton Springs' Terrie Meyn, Romulus' Anne Morgan, Wayne's Joyce Lyke, and Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES' O.J. Sahler.

The group began a discussion of the importance to the Association in reaching out to non-member districts to encourage the return of their membership. [In fact, we are very pleased to announce that the school boards of both Newark and Williamson voted at their July re-organization meetings to re-join the Association.] Our membership now represents 20 of the 25 component school districts (and BOCES) that comprise the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES supervisory district. In addition, South Seneca CSD is also a member of our organization. These are districts that clearly recognize today's necessity for the networking opportunities that our Association continually provides.

Another significant discussion focused on the Association's desire to encourage the active involvement of our schools' superintendents. It is important that we convey clearly that our superintendents are also a vital part of our membership and as we begin the 2008-2009 school year, we send out a reminder to these administrators that they need not wait for an invitation from their boards to attend our general membership meetings. We have several superintendents who have been faithful attendees at these meetings over the years, and we encourage others to join them!

The June 17 meeting resulted in a very comprehensive list of ideas for future programs. Just a few of these include vertical alignment of curriculum, declining enrollment, property tax cap, childhood nutrition, New York State tenure and certification changes, bullying, board strategic planning, Open Meetings rules and requirements, handheld technology, food service operations, International Baccalaureate programs, paperless boards, board clerks, celebration of staff, NCLB, various guest speakers, and many, many more.

These ideas and suggestions are passed on to the Association's steering committee whose members use them as a springboard to set up the school year's general membership meetings' programs. We thank all of those who have taken time from their very busy schedules to play an active role on this committee! The lively, creative exchange and discussion of ideas at this past June's meeting affirmed the viability and necessity of the program planning committee's mission. The Association is looking forward to a year that will inform and engage each of you as you continue your vital role as a school board member.

"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn." ~Sir John Lubbock

August	September	October	November	December
9 Board Officers' Academy (Roch.)	5 SBI Courses (Albany)	2 FCSBA General Membership Program	7 NYSSBA Policy Workshop (Roch.)	2 Statewide School Finance Consortium
12 FCSBA Steering Comm.	5 COLSBA Meeting (tent.)	4 Area 2 Resolutions Discussion	8 FCSBA Legislative Position Paper Workshop (tent)	9 FCSBA Steering Committee
22 NYSSBA New Board Member Academy (Roch.)	5-7 NYSSBA New Board/Veteran Academies	5-7 NYSCOSS Fall Conference	11 Veterans' Day Holiday	10 NYSSBA School Law Conference (Albany)
26 Statewide School Finance Consortium	9 FCSBA Steering Committee Meeting	13 Columbus Day Holiday	11 FCSBA Steering Committee	13 Legislative Position Paper Workshop (tent)
	11 Education Law Conference (Syr.)	16 Pre-Convention Law Conference	22 FCSBA Legislative Position Paper Workshop (tent)	25-26 Christmas Holiday
	18 FCSBA Board of Directors	16-19 NYSSBA Convention	24 FCSBA General Membership Program	
	18 FCSBA Legislative Committee	16-18 Upstate/Downstate Hospitality Suite	24 FCSBA Board of Directors' Meeting	
	23 Statewide School Finance	17 Upstate/Downstate Resolutions Discussion		
		23 Statewide School Finance Consortium		
		25 FCSBA Legislative Position Paper Workshop (tent.)		
		29 FCSBA General Membership Program		
		29 FCSBA Program Planning Meeting		



**August
2008**

Fall Planning Meetings

Thursday, September 18, 2008

6:00 p.m. Legislative Committee Meeting

7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Board of Directors' Meeting

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Regional Support Center

Jack Loveless Conference Room

131 Drumlin Court, Newark, NY 14513

TOM SCHERER
President

JOYCE LYKE
1st Vice President

NANCY SCHER
2nd Vice President

JEANNE DURFEE
Past President

ANNE MORGAN
Legislative Committee

KATHY MALONE
Program Planning Chair

SHARON A. SWEENEY
Executive Director

MARY TRANELLI
Administrative Assistant

President's Message



On behalf of the Four County School Boards Association, I would like to welcome our new and veteran board members from Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties for what I am sure will be another exciting and challenging 2008-2009 school year.

First, let me take this opportunity to welcome the **Newark** Board of Education and the **Williamson** Board of Education as new members to Four County School Boards Association. It is both a privilege and an honor to have both boards as part of our organization.

This year more than ever it is important that each of us learn as much as we can so that when we are voting at our board meetings we can do so confidently and know we possess knowledge of the subject matter at hand. Many significant issues will be facing us throughout the year including Property Tax Caps, Mandate Relief both funded and unfunded, surging fuel, health care and pension costs and of course the concern for state aid that will be both reliable and predictable. It is incumbent that each of us is well versed in these and many other areas.

To that end, we would encourage all of our board members and Superintendents to attend the program offerings of our Four County School Boards Association or workshops offered at the state level through the New York School Boards Association. Additionally, your Four County School Boards Program Planning Committee is committed to providing as many quality-learning opportunities as possible through the programs offered at our General Membership Meetings. We invite you to take advantage of the opportunities!

Also, we would encourage all of our members to become active contributors to the committees offered through Four County School Boards Association. Your attendance as your board's representative, to Four County SBA meetings for the Board of Directors, Program Planning, Legislative Committee, Presidents/Vice-Presidents (just to name a few) is vital to the success of your Four County School Boards Association.

Being a productive and contributing school board member requires dedication and work. It also means becoming a lifelong learner. No matter what we think we know about board service, we still have a lot to learn! We encourage both new and veteran board members to attend all of our General Membership Meetings throughout the year.

Hope to see you at our opening General Membership meeting
to be held on Thursday, October 2, 2008
at Club 86 in Geneva!

Tom



Four County School Boards Association
131 Drumlin Court
Newark, NY 14513