



Hello to all the 4CSBA members, It was wonderful seeing several of you at Summer Training Academy held at the Desmond earlier this month. I hope you found the program helpful and that it provided some new leadership/governance ideas.

I also saw several of the 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 over and the 2008-2009 school year is in full swing. 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 the summer weather cooperated with most outdoor plans. With the new school year upon us 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 FCSBA meeting on October 2, and/or at the NYSSBA convention in NYC; which is only a little more that two weeks away.

If you need to contact me information is listed below, I'd love to hear from you. My email addresses are:

tnespeca@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.

Sincerely,

Tom



Website Spotlight

www.bigdealbook.com/edtech: link to a new book - "Ed Tech from the Trenches: Second Annual Survey of Shifting Media and Materials Use in K-12 Education" - that highlights the findings from two online surveys of more than 1,600 K-12 teachers, technology coordinators, media specialists and administrators on the changing mix of instructional resources in K-12 schools and their effectiveness for developing 21st century skills.

www.ed.gov: offers a publication - "Evaluating Online Learning: Challenges and Strategies for Success" - that features seven evaluations of online learning programs to assist educators in evaluating their online learning programs.

Both available through www.4csba.org

News



NYSSBA

89TH Annual Convention and Trade Show
October 16 – 19, 2008
Sheraton Hotel and Towers
New York City
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Pre-Convention Law Conference  
Thursday, October 16, 2008  
New York City  
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Policy Workshop
Friday, November 7, 2008
Rochester, New York

**NYSSBA AREA 2
PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS DISCUSSION**
Saturday, October 4, 2008
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Canandaigua Academy Library
Hosted by NYSSBA Area 2 Director **Tom Nespeca** (Webster)
Sponsored by **Four County, Genesee Valley and Monroe County SBAs**
For all voting delegates and alternates or another representative from your board
A great preparation for the NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting



PRESIDENT SCHERER APPOINTS COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRS

Four County President **Tom Scherer** (Geneva) has appointed two members to assist with Committee leadership as vice chair people. Tapped to work with Committee Chair **Anne Morgan** (Romulus/Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES) and the Legislative Committee is Dundee Board member **Jim Koehler**. Jim has been a member of that Committee and attended the NYSSBA Legislative Conference and SLN Lobby Day in 2008. He was also a member of the 2008 Nominating Committee. Joining Program Planning Chair **Kathy Malone** (Clyde-Savannah) will be **Mike Ellis** (Bloomfield). Mike has been one of a small core of active representatives to that group. The addition of the vice chair positions will expand representation to the Steering Committee. Welcome Jim and Mike.



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SETS CALENDAR ACCEPTS LOBBYING ASSIGNMENTS

At their meeting on September 18, 2008, representatives and alternates to the Four County Legislative Committee established the **2008-2009 Legislative Activity Calendar** and agreed to contact assignments for advocacy at the State and Federal levels. The group set a series of **Saturday workshops** to begin and complete work on the 2008-2009 State, Federal and Regulatory Position Papers. Committee reps and alternates are asked to save the following dates:

October 25 November 8 November 22 December 13
Watch for details and registration information!

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**FOUR COUNTY NEGOTIATORS' BREAKFAST**  
Friday, October 10, 2008  
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
Vocational Education Conference Room  
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Regional Support Center  
Newark, New York  
*Negotiations professionals, superintendents, business officials, and human resource directors invited and welcome to attend*  
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**FOUR COUNTY PLANS
2008 NYSSBA CONVENTION ACTIVITIES**
Upstate/Downstate Resolutions Discussion
In preparation for NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting, Four County members will again co-host the Upstate-Downstate Resolutions Discussion. Scheduled for **Friday afternoon from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** it will be held in the Sheraton Hotel & Towers Riverside Ballroom on the third floor. All voting delegates are invited and encouraged to participate.

Upstate/Downstate Hospitality Suite
All Four County members attending the NYSSBA Convention are invited to enjoy the opportunities offered through the Upstate/Downstate Hospitality Suite which will be located in Room #3001 of the Sheraton Hotel and Towers. The Suite will be available **Thursday, 7:45 p.m. – 12:00 midnight; Friday, 5:30 p.m. – midnight, and Saturday 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. – midnight.**

Thanks once again to our business partners who help to make the suite possible –
Ashley McGraw Architects **Hodgson Russ Attorneys**
Turner Construction
and Local Association sponsor –
Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association.

Both events are co-hosted by the members of the Erie County ASB, Four County, Genesee Valley, Monroe County, Niagara-Orleans, Rockland County, Westchester-Putnam, and Nassau-Suffolk SBAs.

FCSBA PRESIDENTS' & VICE PRESIDENTS' DINNER & ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION

Tuesday, October 21, 2008
5:45 p.m. – Registration **6:15 – Dinner and Discussion**
Jack Loveless Conference Room
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Regional Support Center
Newark, New York
Watch for details and registration information

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

A WORKSHOP FOR BOARD CLERKS (& those who work for board clerks)


Thursday, October 2, 2008
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
(Prior to Four County General Membership Meeting)
The Club 86
Geneva, New York



A special opportunity to meet with and engage in conversation with Bob Freeman on issues of particular concern to board clerks in the day-to-day responsibilities for compliance with the Freedom of Information Law and the Open Meetings Law.

Then join us for dinner with your board members and superintendents for a further discussion during the General Membership Meeting.

Please pass along to appropriate staff -
Science Teachers to Meet in Rochester
The 113th Annual Conference of the Science Teachers Association of NYS (STANYS) will be held at Rochester's Riverside Convention Center November 1-4, 2008. The group hopes to enhance the value of participation by taking advantage of Rochester's scientific institutions and regional natural history, and includes a day of optional field trips, tours, and special workshops. The conference also includes two-and-a-half days of workshops, special events, and exhibits.
The New York State Department of Education encourages science teachers to participate in the STANYS Conference. Participating teachers return to their districts with ideas and materials that strengthen their local science programs, supporting the mutual effort of NYSED and STANYS to raise standards and achievements in science, math, and technology.
Specific information about conference events is accessible at <http://www.stanys.org/confprog.htm>. To register to attend, go to <http://www.stanys.org/confreg.htm>. To learn more, contact St. John Fisher College Faculty Member (and East Rochester School Board Member) Lafayette Eaton at leaton@sjfc.edu.

September	October	November	December	January
18 FCSBA Board of Directors/Legislative Committee Meetings	2 FCSBA General Membership Meeting	5 Property Tax Cap Hearing (Roch.)	2 Statewide Finance Consortium	5 FCSBA Steering Committee Meeting
23 Statewide Finance Consortium	4 Area 2 Resolutions Discussion	7 NYSSBA Policy Workshop (Roch.)	4 FCSBA Presidents'/ Vice Presidents' Dinner	15 FCSBA Board of Directors'/ Legislative/ General Membership Meetings
25 MCSBA Law Conference	5-7 NYSSCOSS Fall Conference	8 FCSBA Legislative Position Paper Workshop	13 FCSBA Legislative Position Paper Workshop	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
	10 FCSBA Negotiators' Breakfast	11 FCSBA Steering Committee Meeting		23 Statewide Finance Consortium
	16-19 NYSSBA Convention	22 FCSBA Legislative Position Paper Workshop		
	16-18 Upstate/ Downstate Hospitality Suite	24 FCSBA General Membership/Board of Directors' Meeting		
	17 Upstate/ Downstate Resolutions Discussion			
	21 FCSBA Presidents'/Vice Presidents' Dinner			
	20-24 School Board Recognition Week			
	25 FCSBA Legislative Position Paper Workshop			
	29 FCSBA General Membership Meeting			



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

**September
2008**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Club 86, Avenue E, Geneva, NY

5:30 – Registration/Conversation

6:30 – Dinner 7:30 – Program

Guest Speaker

ROBERT J. FREEMAN, Esq.

Executive Director, NYS Committee on Open Government

TOM SCHERER
President

NANCY SCHER
1st Vice President

JOYCE LYKE
2nd Vice President

KATHY MALONE
Program Planning Chair

ANNE MORGAN
Legislative Committee

JEANNE DURFEE
Past President

SHARON A. SWEENEY
Executive Director

MARY TRANELLI
Administrative Assistant



President's Message



Your Four County School Board Association's Board of Directors and Legislative Committee met for the first time this year on Thursday, September 18, 2008 in Newark, N.Y., with 14 representatives present from 12 districts across our Four County area. During these busy and hectic times it is refreshing to see so many dedicated board members willing to give up their time to attend this important meeting.

As with all of our Board of Director meetings, many important topics were covered ranging from a review of financial statements, reports from all of our standing committees, the reappointment of our Executive Director, discussing our 2008-2009 proposed action plan and calendar and much, much more. With all that was discussed and decided, one clear theme seemed to emerge. For me, and each person in attendance, focus was quickly provided when one of our members stated "after all, we are all here for our students aren't we?" Simply stated and yet a powerful message. Thank you **Steve Nims, Gananda Central School District**, for that very important reminder.

That clear statement should bring into focus for all of us as board members what our real purpose should be. When you are sitting at your next board meeting and serious issues are raised and discussed, try to take a step back for a moment and ask yourself this one question: How will this decision impact our students and is this what is best for our students? With students always as our focus, our objectives and goals should be crystal clear!

I would like to thank each of the following individuals for their participation at either the Board of Directors', Legislative Committee or both meetings: **Mike Ellis** – Bloomfield Central, **Donna Cotter** – Canandaigua City School District, **Kathy Malone** – Clyde/Savannah, **Chuck Rothfuss and Steve Nims** – Gananda, **Andy Richardson** – Lyons Central, **Margo Ulmer** – Naples Central, **Tom Ledbetter** – Newark Central, **Nancy Scher** – Penn Yan Central and WFL - BOCES, **Terrie Meyn** – Phelps-Clifton Springs, **Anne Morgan** - Romulus Central and WFL-BOCES, **Joyce Lyke** – Wayne Central, **Stu Einstein and Lynn Gay** – W-FL BOCES, **Mike Collins & Bob Wendler** - Williamson Central.

As I reflect on this meeting, it becomes clear to me that the demands of family, work and other volunteer commitments consume much of a board member's time. Board members from one district to another may participate at varying degrees in the work of Four County Committees; attend general membership meetings, board member development opportunities, workshops and trainings depending upon their availability. However, **ALL** member boards, whether individual members are able to participate or not, benefit from representation at both the State and Federal levels on critical issues through the Association's Legislative Advocacy efforts.

Many thanks to everyone who was able to attend and participate in our Board of Director and Legislative Committee Meeting!

TOM