



While the students and many of the adults can see the end coming to the school year, you've just completed running the annual gauntlet; budget meetings, public hearings, preparing local budget communications and so forth. Thank you for all the effort you provide for your district's residents, if they could they would also thank you.

I hope you are starting to catch your breath from all these activities going on in your respective districts, Budget votes, School Board Member elections and end of school year activities. While I know that all of you, with your superintendents and administrators, worked very hard in developing your budgets; I hope that all your hard work pays off in successful Budget votes. I wish those running for election, good luck and thanks for wanting to serve your districts and the students of your community. Those of you deciding to step down from School Board service thanks for all you've done for the residents and students of your districts and the children of NYS.

While I'm not able to attend this year's FCSBA Annual meeting on May 21, 2009, as it happens to be on a Board meeting night in my district, I hope you are able to take advantage of the wonderful annual event at the Belhurst Castle. It has always been a great evening with wonderful speakers and a great way to cap off another year of hard work and dedication.

Enjoy the summer and stay in touch!

Tom

Area 2 Director
NYSSBA, Vice President

NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION

Tuesday, June 16, 2009
WAYNE-FINGER LAKES BOCES
REGIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
131 Drumlin Court
Newark, New York

5:30 p.m. Registration and Conversation
6:15 p.m. Dinner
6:45 p.m. Program

Encourage your new and nearly new board members to join us!

They will:

- meet their colleagues from the Four County area
- gain an understanding of their new role and responsibilities
- learn about the resources available to make the job easier

Board Presidents and Superintendents are invited to come along!

NEWS

NYSSBA

Special Education Law Conference

May 28, 2009
Marriott Airport
Rochester

Board Officers' Academy

July 31, 2009
Woodcliff Hotel & Spa
Fairport

New Member Weekend Academy

July 17-18, 2009
Hyatt Regency
Buffalo

Summer School Law Conference

July 17, 2009
Desmond
Albany

Website Spotlight

www.all4ed.org – website for the Alliance for Excellent Education. The Alliance is a national policy and advocacy organization whose mission is to make every child a high school graduate - to prepare them for college, work, and to be contributing members of society. It also offers statistical information to support the statement that the "best economic stimulus is a diploma". (Find the link on the right side of their home page.) Link available through www.4csba.org

LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE IDENTIFIES ISSUES

& Seeks Volunteers

After a brainstorming session and period of spirited discussion on April 27, a group of Four County members identified three issues for aggressive advocacy. "3020-a Reform", "Expansion of BOCES and other forms of Shared/Consolidated Services", and "Relief from Paperwork and Reporting Requirements" have each been assigned to a small group for further consideration and the development of plans for action.

Interested members are invited to join each sub-group. Contact the Association office if you would like to participate!

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

The following Four County members are retiring from board service this year. The Association bids each farewell and thanks you for your investment of time and energy in our children and their education. Your contributions are appreciated whether you have served for one term, or for many, and your experience will be missed. We wish you well in your post school board endeavors. Big thanks to:

- Frieda O'Hanlon** – Canandaigua
- Tarry Shipley** – Canandaigua
- Paul Sharp** – Clyde-Savannah
- Irene Nowak** – Dundee
- Tom Scherer** – Geneva
- Margaret Ball** – Marcus Whitman
- Larry Porter** – Marion
- Dave Till** - Naples
- Mindy DeBadts** – North Rose Wolcott
- Judy Kirk** – Penn Yan
- Deb Warren** – Penn Yan
- Stephanie Johnson** – Sodus
- Scott Sprague** – Victor

Special thanks to:

Tarry Shipley for 30 years of dedication that include a term as Four County Legislative Committee Chair, NYSSBA Area 2 Director, and NYSSBA President, as well as participation in the State Legislative Network (SLN) and the Federal Relations Network (FRN).

Frieda O'Hanlon whose term as Four County Legislative Committee Chair brought a new look to association position papers and who also served as a member of the SLN.

Tom Scherer for three years as Four County President and active participation in the Legislative Committee that included representation on the FRN and SLN.



SAVE THE DATE *** SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendar for the next
Program Planning Committee Meeting.
Torrey Park Grill
Geneva
June 29, 2009



Education Research – A Valuable Tool

"School boards need to take a close look at whether or not school practices take into account modern research!" **Dr. Douglas Reeves, founder Leadership and Learning Center**

Another quote from **Dr. Reeves'** presentation at the NSBA convention. He cites the example of research results that clearly illustrate the value of extracurricular activities. The findings demonstrate that such participation by students can increase academic achievement and reduce drop out and suspension rates. Yet, in his observation, school policies actually tend to discourage the involvement of students on the fringe. Rather than encouraging disenchanted students to become more involved, the opposite is true – 'You cut class, you're off the team,' when the evidence suggests these students should be encouraged to join the team.

How do you and your board make sure you are aware of the latest findings from valid educational research? Do you review policies and practices to implement desired changes as a result of the new information? Both practices can yield valuable information in the quest to improve student achievement!

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WISHING SUCCESS TO ALL ON MAY 19!

This year's fiscal climate and the uncertainties and limits accompanying the use stimulus funds, have made budget preparation especially difficult and stressful for all. Tough decisions have been made in the effort to maintain and improve educational programs while being sensitive to what local property tax payers can afford. May your hard work and sensitivity be recognized and rewarded by each community's support of the proposed budgets.

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ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Four County members will once again gather at the Belhurst Castle in Geneva to celebrate the close of another successful year and begin preparations for the year that is to come. Between dinner and remarks by guest speaker **Dr. Tom Rogers**, the membership will conduct the Annual Business Meeting. In addition to accepting the Executive Directors' **Annual Report** and conducting the **election of officers**, the gathering will consider approval of amendments to the **Association Bylaws**.

The slate of officers for 2009-2010: **President – Joyce Lyke** (Wayne), **First Vice President – Nancy Scher** (Penn Yan/Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES), and **Second Vice President – Anne Morgan** (Romulus/Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES).

Please join us to cast your vote, enjoy the conversation, and marvel at the talent of students from the Wayne Central and Geneva City School districts. We look forward to another beautiful evening overlooking Seneca Lake.

"Small minds are the first to condemn great ideas." Anonymous

May	June	July
12 FCSBA Steering Committee	7-10 NYS Association of School Business Officials Conference- Saratoga	13-15 Rural Schools Association Conference
15 FCSBA Negotiators' Breakfast	24 FCSBA Steering Committee Meeting	17 NYSSBA Summer School Law Conference
19 Statewide Budget Vote and School Board Elections	29 FCSBA Program Planning Committee Meeting - Torrey Park Grill	17-18 NYSSBA New Member Weekend Academy
21 FCSBA Annual Meeting		31 NYSSBA Board Officers' Academy
25 Memorial Day Holiday		
28 NYSSBA Special Education Law Conference		



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

**May
2009**

Four County School Boards Association Annual Meeting & Dinner

Tom Scherer
President

Joyce Lyke
1st Vice President

Nancy Scher
2nd Vice President

Jeanne Durfee
Past President

Anne Morgan
Legislative Committee
Chair

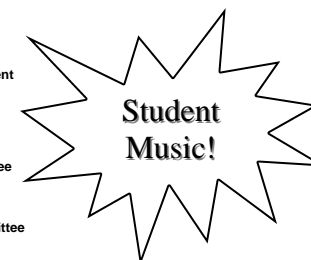
Jim Koehler
Legislative Committee
Vice Chair

Kathy Malone
Program Planning
Chair

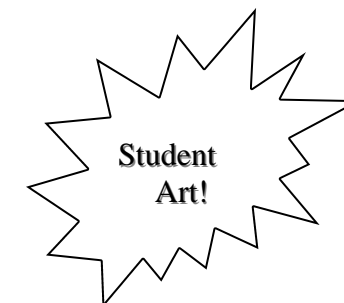
Mike Ellis
Program Planning
Vice Chair

Sharon A. Sweeney
Executive Director

Mary Tranelli
Administrative Assistant



Thursday, May 21, 2009
at
The Belhurst Castle
Route 14S, Geneva, NY
(315) 781-0201



*Guest Speaker - Dr. Tom Rogers,
Executive Director, New York State
Council of School Superintendents*

President's Message



Your Four County School Boards Association hosted an excellent daylong program on **Fiscal Training and Responsibility** for newly elected and re-elected school board members. Our thanks go out to the presenters, **Mr. Greg Atseff**, Assistant Superintendent for Business for the Wayne Central School District, **Raymond Wager** of the firm Raymond Wager, CPA, P.C., **Kathie Barrett**, CPA - Director with Freed Maxick & Battaglia CPAs, PC, and our very own **Sharon Sweeney**, Executive Director of Four County School Boards Association, for giving up their valuable time all day on Saturday, April 25 in Newark to provide this valuable training.

As my term of President of Four County SBA and the 2008-2009 school year comes to a close, it would be important to acknowledge the work of your board representatives to the Four County School Boards Association.

Specifically, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the members of the Four County Steering Committee. A huge "Thank You" goes out to **Jean Durfee** (W-FL BOCES), **Mike Ellis** (Bloomfield Central), **Jim Koehler** (Dundee Central), **Joyce Lyke** (Wayne Central), **Anne Morgan** (Romulus/W-FL BOCES), **Kathy Malone** (Clyde Savannah), **Nancy Scher** (Penn Yan/W-FLBOCES) and of course our Executive Director of Four County School Boards Association, **Sharon Sweeney**! This is a truly dedicated group that works collaboratively to guide and helps to provide direction for your Four County School Boards Association throughout the year.

This group has accepted the responsibility (along with their own Board work) of planning events, participating in committee work including our Steering Committee, Legislative Committee, Program Planning, Budget and of course our Board of Director meetings just to name a few! Without their support none of the numerous activities, networking and professional growth opportunities would be possible.

The excellent work this group completes often goes on behind the scenes but certainly is no less important! Their presence at the State Legislative Conference in Albany and at the Federal Relations Network in Washington, D.C. assures all of our member districts a strong voice that reflects your concerns to our legislators on issues that directly affect the education of all of our students. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to work along side such a distinguished and dedicated group!

Our next program, scheduled for **June 16**, will be our **New Board Member Orientation**. We encourage all of our newly elected board members to attend this informational session, as it will provide valuable insights into boardmanship.

We hope to see you at our Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at the Belhurst Castle in Geneva!

Tom