

55th Annual School Law Conference



Dr. Donald Christian
(I) SUNY New Paltz
President



Presenter John Donoghue
(Donoghue, Thomas,
Auslander & Drohan)

With over 200 people in attendance, MHSSC's 55th annual school law conference was a well-attended, positive experience for all. With a number of outstanding presenters, audience members heard the latest updates on school law issues.

Dr. Donald Christian, SUNY New Paltz Interim President, opened the law conference in August and welcomed all to the SUNY New Paltz campus.

President Hooley then introduced Donald E. Budman who spoke about how schools can examine traditional and non-traditional sources of revenue, the current rules regarding commercial activities in schools, and ethical/practicalities.

Audience members were then sent on a skating tour of current court decisions, laws, and regulations by NYSSBA's Jay Worona. Jay, a longtime friend of MHSSC, contributes much to the annual law conference and is always a popular and exciting speaker.

John Donoghue and Jay explored the role of the school attorney and discussed access, fee schedules vs. retainers, and client/attorney privileges.

The final segment of our program was a review of hypothetical school law cases moderated by Jay with a panel of legal experts that included Kathy Ahearn, Howard Miller, and Beth Sims. Cases included discussion of an assault on a student, inappropriate contact with students, and appropriate use of electronic communication.



MHSSC President Richard M. Hooley with presenters Don Budman (Ferrara, Fiorenza, Larrison, Barrett & Reitz, P.C.), and Jay Worona (NYSSBA General Counsel)



Jay Worona with panel presenters Kathy Ahearn (Guercio & Guercio), Howard Miller (Bond, Schoeneck & King), and Beth Sims (Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert)

School Board Presidents Meet

MHSSC sponsored a program for area school board presidents at the end of September. Once again, this annual fall event at the Newburgh Ramada Inn was attended by many area school leaders. Vice presidents and superintendents were invited to attend this program, also.

David Shaw (Shaw, Perelson, May and Lambert) started our program with a legal update. He also covered the open meetings law, executive sessions, confidentiality issues, and preventive steps to take to avoid legal problems before they occur.

Presenters Joseph Zanetti (Tuxedo) and Peggy Zugibe (North Rockland) spoke about agenda development for student success. Attending presidents reviewed sample board meeting agendas and dis-

cussed content focus, length of meetings, parliamentary procedures, and how to focus an agenda on monitoring student success.

Also on the evening's agenda was goal setting. Those in attendance reviewed setting and evaluating district goals and board goals. Discussions were held on holding retreats and conducting board self-evaluations. In sharing best practices with area school leaders, our attending members learned much from each other.

The final segment of the program focused on developing and maintaining sound leadership for an effective school board.

The many positive evaluations we received from this session call for MHSSC to offer this program again next fall.



Presenters Joseph Zanetti (Tuxedo) and Peggy Zugibe (North Rockland)



Tom Johnson (Pawling), David Shaw (Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert), Larry Berger (Cornwall) and Bill Boss (O/U BOCES)

2010 Awards for Excellence



Excellence in School Board Service
Award Winners



Excellence in Pupil Personnel Services
Award Winners



Excellence in Administration
Award Winners



Excellence in Support Staff Services
Award Winners



Excellence in Teaching
Award Winners



MHSSC President Richard M. Hooley,
Susan Doyle, Executive Director,
MHSSC Vice President Ivan Katz, and
Dean Robert Michael (in background)

MHSSC's annual awards dinner was held at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor on October 14th. Over 800 people were in attendance to grant the awards for excellence to this year's 44 recipients. Once again, HSBC Bank sponsored this event, and we thank them for their support in recognizing excellence in education in the Hudson Valley.

MHSSC mails nomination forms to each member district in May, and completed forms are due in our office by mid-July. A selection committee meets in August to review the nominations and grant the awards. Winners and their districts are notified in late August.

The awards for excellence in teaching are granted by the Dean of Education at SUNY New Paltz. Requests for nominations are made in late winter, and nominations are submitted to the Dean in early spring.

MHSSC's awards for excellence program is a well-known, prestigious program in the mid-Hudson region. We are proud to recognize excellence in our schools and grant the awards to the outstanding educators who serve our children and our schools, and we extend sincere congratulations to this year's award winners.

To recognize her years of service to our study council, MHSSC President Richard M. Hooley granted a special award to Susan Doyle for executive director excellence. Susan has announced her resignation from MHSSC effective at the end of this calendar year.

AWARD WINNERS

School Board Service

Maureen Bowers, Kingston
Michael DiGeronimo, Monroe-Woodbury
Diana Petrosky, Tuxedo
Steve Port, Carmel
Kevin Reidy, Valley Central
Michael Ryan, Tri-Valley
William Zopf, Beacon

Pupil Personnel Services

Jo-Ann Capozella, Valley Central
Regina Cieslak, Orange/Ulster BOCES
Denise Hains, Millbrook
Scott Lerner, Washingtonville
Theresa Mack, Monroe-Woodbury

Administration

Hugh Cauthers, Monroe-Woodbury
Douglas Damiani, Dutchess BOCES
Margaret Davis, Haldane
Edward Escobar, Monticello
Anne Kelly, Ulster BOCES
Glen Maisch, Kingston
Sohail Raikhy, Sullivan West
Michael Rossi, Washingtonville
Eileen Sicina, Spackenkill
Frank Tolan, Pawling
Jodie Yankanin, Orange/Ulster BOCES

Support Staff Services

Barbara Alexander, Pawling
Cindy Brown, Goshen
Wilson Bunting, Valley Central
Bruce Campbell, Ulster BOCES
Mary Lou Carney, Orange/Ulster BOCES
Gail Cicchetti, Sullivan West
Trini Giagiakos, Pine Bush
Elixabeth Kendall, Monticello
Joseph Logan, Ellenville
William Popkave, Rockland BOCES
Josephine Sanchez, Monroe-Woodbury
Kathi Smith, Tri-Valley
Linda Way, Dutchess BOCES

Teaching

Sandra Carroll, Valley Central
Janet DeStefano, Newburgh
Dana McDonough, Newburgh
James McIntyre, Pine Bush
Helen Rueckert, Goshen
Ann Steele, Valley Central
Patricia Steffens, Highland
Allison Wright, Wappingers

Millennium Conference

By Dr. Josephine N. Moffett, SUNY New Paltz

“Best class I ever took”, “this should be a mandatory class for every person who is in the leadership program”. These were just two of the comments that Dr. Muffs, co-instructor, and I heard on the last day of the Millennium course last August.

With the support of Susan Doyle and Lynne Cruger of the Mid-Hudson Study Council, this intensive one week class from 8:30 to 5:00 was the highlight of the educational experience for 60 graduate students many who have double masters’ degrees. The Millennium course has been in existence for eleven years; however, the format has changed dramatically in the last couple of years. It started out as an introductory course and has evolved to a comprehensive course in school administration. Part of every morning is devoted to a panel discussion with distinguished leaders in the field and recent graduates of the SUNY New Paltz program. For instance, we started on Monday morning (after the welcome, review of syllabus and introductions) with recent graduates that spoke on a panel about the value of the internship and initial positions in school administration. This included the graduates meeting in small groups with the students. The opportunity to speak directly with the graduates and ask questions that may be uncomfortable to ask in a classroom setting turned out to be

an invaluable experience.

After all of the practical experience and knowledge the professors covered topics that are relevant to the new and potential educational leaders such as personnel issues, interviewing, data usage, value added evaluations, school board relations, and equity. Add this to the case studies based on real life experiences made this a comprehensive week of study and application. This format was repeated the next three days with assistant principals, principals, and central office administrators on the panel who also interacted in small groups with the students.

The information packed Law Conference on Friday adds to the students’ knowledge, and they are able to get the latest information on recent cases involving education at the state and federal level from attorneys who are experts in educational law. The students also are encouraged to take advantage of this time and continue to network as the law conference attracts educational leaders from across New York State. This conference format is expertly put together by the MHSSC staff.

My classes this fall include students who have taken the Millennium course over the summer and they have praised it so highly that I already know we will have standing room only next summer!



Article author Dr. Josephine Moffett with Dr. Michael Muffs, SUNY New Paltz



Millennium panel members Paul Chakar (Andes), Charlotte Gregory (I, Onteora), Lois Powell (Spackenkill), and Phil Steinberg (Pine Bush)



Millennium panel members Brian Monahan (M-W), Lenora Boehlert (White Plains), Robin Zimmerman (Arlington), and Lisa Tiger (Florida)

*Join us for our 4th annual
Regional Forum on Collective Bargaining
November 17, 2010 ~ 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Newburgh Ramada Inn*

MHSSC
Mid-Hudson School Study Council
SUNY New Paltz, SCB 125
New Paltz, New York 12561
Tel: (845) 257-2820 FAX: (845) 257-2797
Website and online registration
mhssc.net

**MHSSC ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
P/T**

The MHSSC seeks a strong successful leader with a record of accomplishment in advancing public education in the Mid-Hudson Region.

The MHSSC is a non-profit corporation dedicated to improving education in the Mid-Hudson Region and serving the needs of its member school districts from the seven Mid-Hudson Counties. This is accomplished through focused research into common issues, the diffusion of effective-practices and strong advocacy at the regional, state and national level.

Start Date: On or about January 1, 2011

The Council's offices are located on the campus of SUNY New Paltz. It has an annual budget of \$145,000 and currently has approximately 70 member school districts.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Strong record of success as educational leader as school administrator or school board member.
- Working knowledge of Public Education in New York State.
- Proven ability to plan and execute large complex events and programs.
- Demonstrated ability to forge partnerships across both traditional and non-traditional constituencies.
- Successful experience in resource development and legislative advocacy.

Compensation: Salary up to \$45,000 depending upon experience and preparation.

Application Deadline: October 29, 2010

Please send cover letter and resume to:

Mr. Terrence L. Olivo, Chief Operating Officer,
MHSSC Search c/o Orange-Ulster BOCES
53 Gibson Road
Goshen, New York 10924-9777

MHSSC Officers and Executive Committee Members 2010-11

President - Richard M. Hooley, Valley Central
Vice President - Ivan Katz, Fallsburg
Treasurer - Mark Villanti, Haldane
Past President - Anne M. Byrne, Nanuet

Valencia Douglas - Pocantico Hills, Roberta Greene - Washingtonville, Gerard Gretzinger - Kingston, Kenneth Hilton - Sullivan West, Debra Jackson - Highland Falls, Lloyd Jaeger - Millbrook, Edward McCormick, Arlington/Dutchess BOCES, Dean Robert Michael - SUNY New Paltz, Carl Onken - O/U BOCES, Joseph Phelan - Rhinebeck, James Ryan - Carmel, Joseph Sciortino - Pawling, Mark Silverstein - Hawthone-Cedar Knolls, Philip Steinberg - Pine Bush, Michael Vanyo - Liberty, Lisa Wiles - Ellenville, Laval Wilson - Poughkeepsie, Joseph Zanetti - Tuxedo, Peggy Zugibe - No. Rockland

Ex-Officio Members

Donald Christian - SUNY New Paltz President (I)
Mary Jean Marsico - Rockland BOCES, Robert Monson - Southern Westchester BOCES
Terrence Olivo - Orange/Ulster BOCES, John Pennoyer - Dutchess BOCES,
Larry Thomas - Sullivan BOCES, Martin Ruglis - Ulster BOCES

Honorary Member - William F. Moran

Staff

Eileen Casey - Legislative Director Lynne Cruger - Assistant to the Director
Terrence Olivo - Research Director Susan Doyle - Executive Director