



Annual Meeting

MHSSC held its annual dinner meeting at the Inn at Central Valley (Falkirk Estate) on April 29th. Over 160 people enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner in a scenic setting.

MHSSC and SUNY New Paltz were proud to grant their awards for Educational Leadership at this dinner. The 2010 recipients of the Awards for Educational Leadership were the following: Roberta L. Greene (Washingtonville), Elaine Hofstetter (SUNY New Paltz), and Terrence Olivo (O/U BOCES). President Byrne read a statement about the achievements and accomplishments of each award recipient, and she presented each of them with plaques recognizing their outstanding contributions to their educational communities.

This first year endeavor was a positive and rewarding experience, and MHSSC and SUNY New Paltz expect to continue to honor and recognize outstanding school leaders in the coming years.

The evening's program featured a panel presentation on surviving and thriving during the financial crisis.

R. Lloyd Jaeger (Millbrook), Patrick Michel (Monticello), and Terrence Olivo (O/U BOCES) delivered outstanding commentaries on the topic and gave thought-provoking prognostications and astute observations on how the fiscal crisis will impact the future of public education.

Attending school board members, superintendents, district office personnel, SUNY New Paltz representatives, and guests were signifi-

cantly impressed with the engaging, informative, and interesting remarks by our panel of distinguished educators.

During the business meeting, attending members adopted a budget and elected officers and executive committee members for the new school year.

The following MHSSC officers were elected for the 2010-11 school year: President, Richard Hooley (Valley Central), Vice President, Ivan Katz (Fallsburg), Treasurer, Mark Villanti (Haldane), and Past President, Anne Byrne (Nanuet).

Newly elected members of MHSSC's executive committee include Debra Jackson (Highland Falls), James Ryan (Carmel), Phil Steinberg (Pine Bush), and Laval Wilson (Poughkeepsie),

The following members were re-elected to serve another two year term: Valencia Douglas (Nyack), Roberta Greene (Washingtonville), Ed McCormick (Arlington and Dutchess BOCES), Carl Onken (O/U BOCES), Joseph Phelan (Rhinebeck), Lisa Wiles (Ellenville), and Joseph Zanetti (Tuxedo).

During this meeting, President Byrne recognized MHSSC's executive committee members who were leaving our committee at the end of this school year.

Sincere thanks and appreciation were extended to Christopher Como (Dutchess BOCES), Richard Feller (Monticello), Frank Pepe (Arlington), and Martha Murray (Minisink Valley).



MHSSC President Anne Byrne with retiring executive committee members Richard Feller (Monticello) and Chris Como (Dut. BOCES)



Educational Leadership Award winners Terrence Olivo (O/U BOCES), Elaine Hofstetter (SUNY New Paltz), and Roberta Greene (Washingtonville) with President Byrne



Panel presenters Patrick Michel (Monticello), Terrence Olivo (O/U BOCES) and R. Lloyd Jaeger (Millbrook)

SADA

In early March, we mailed SADA data runs on summer special education reimbursements, state aid history, and special education costs. This material was obtained from the State Aid Data Analysis Committee.

The State Aid Data Analysis Committee is a statewide organization that examines and analyzes data for use by its members.

MHSSC is a founding member of SADA which was formed in the 1990's, and our study council continues to contribute to the support of

the organization. Rockville Centre Superintendent William Johnson chairs the committee, and state aid specialist Anthony Cashara provides the data runs for our committee members.

Meetings take place in Albany at regularly scheduled intervals, and our study council participates actively in the request and collection of data for our schools. Research Director Terrence Olivo and Executive Director Susan Doyle serve on the SADA committee and attend the

Albany sessions.

Much of the material we collect from SADA is of considerable importance to our members, and our council takes the information pertaining to the districts in the Hudson Valley and sends the data runs to our superintendents.

Throughout the years, SADA has provided a wealth of knowledge for our schools, and we are pleased to continue our support and participation with this vital organization.

Workshop for District Clerks

MHSSC's annual information session for district clerks was held on March 18th at the Newburgh Ramada Inn.

This breakfast meeting was attended by close to 40 district clerks from the Hudson Valley.

School attorney Margo May (Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert)

gave a legal update on the annual meeting and school board elections.

With wit and humor Robert Freeman, Chairperson of the Committee on Open Government, addressed issues concerning FOIL and the Open Meetings Law.

Both presenters provided excellent handout materials and answered

many questions from our attending clerks.

According to the evaluations we received, our clerks found this session quite informative and enjoyable as well. There were numerous requests for additional workshops throughout the year and a full day session for new clerks.



MHSSC President Anne M. Byrne with Bev Sickler, Elena Maskell (New Paltz) and presenter Robert Freeman



Gail Crawford and Mary Lou Botsford (Newburgh) with school attorney Margo May and Camille Ellsworth (Kingston)



Kathy Marino (Haldane), Karen McGucken (O/U BOCES) with speaker Robert Freeman and Debbie Roda (Minisink Valley)

9 County Coalition

The 9 County Coalition is a unique coalition representing school board members, superintendents, teachers, and parent groups from Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester Counties.

The mission of the coalition is to advocate for the removal of inequities in state support for public edu-

cation in our region.

Meetings are held throughout the year to determine our legislative platform and advocacy strategies. In the spring we meet in Albany with staff representatives from the governor's office, the senate, and the assembly.

With charts, data, and prepared statements committee members met

with officials in Albany on March 10th. Our meetings this year included time with Senator Suzi Openheimer, Chairperson of the Senate Education Committee.

An integral part of the 9 County Coalition since the mid 1990's MHSSC continues to work with coalition members to advocate for our schools.

A Quick Understanding of the NYS Cohesive Leadership System

By Dr. Jan Hammond and Dr. Rose Rudnitski

Educational Administration Department, SUNY New Paltz

More and more studies are finding a strong correlation between effective leadership and quality schools. These findings led to the development of national leadership standards that have been accepted nationwide and were recently adopted by the New York Regents. The Wallace Foundation aligned its funding criteria with the 2008 Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) standards. The New York State Education Department received a substantial Wallace grant to develop a Cohesive Leadership System (CLS) for New York State based upon the ISLLC standards.

The New York State Cohesive Leadership System is aimed at supporting educational leaders throughout their careers. The CLS is framed around the following points: 1) Improving pre-service leadership programs; 2) Providing high quality professional development for practicing school leaders; 3) Creating an educational leader performance evaluation system and 4) Basing the above on the ISLLC Standards (2008) to strengthen the cohesiveness of the system.

Two of the key components of the CLS are 1) training through a comprehensive of regional leadership academies and 2) a statewide professional assessment system for educational leaders, which is in draft form at this time, designed to evaluate educational level using a uniformed system that includes student performance measures. The first round of Leadership Academies for New York State are in Rochester, New York City, and Mid-Hudson. The Mid-Hudson Leadership Academy began with the Mid-Hudson BOCES JMT Principals Center, a twenty-year resource for school leaders in the Hudson Valley. Under this system, it will expand into a full Leadership Academy.

The guiding criteria, according to the NYSED website, for the development of the Professional Assessment System for education leaders are the following:

1. The system should be applicable to all levels of leadership, be flexible, be based on multiple measures, be sensitive to the diversity and the context of the school and district, be clear and explicit, and be fair and reasonable.

2. The process should be a shared responsibility between the supervisor and the leader being evaluated, include formative and summative assessments, promote collaboration, ongoing communication, timely feedback, and trust between the supervisor and the leader being evaluated

3. The outcomes should lead to professional growth and development of the leader being evaluated, promote learning for all students, and be confidential.

The Professional Assessment System for Educational Leaders has five required components: Performance Goals, Student Performance, Feedback from Multiple Sources, Professional Growth, and Personalized Professional Focus.

The overall goal of the Cohesive Leadership System is to improve student achievement by supporting leadership development. The General Advisory Group, comprised of practicing school leaders, school leadership associations, NYSED key personnel, and experts has met for nearly two years, striving to create a quality system that can be used by every district in the state.

Legal Update for School Administrators

In March MHSSC held its annual legal update for school administrators at the Newburgh Ramada Inn. Over 60 school leaders attended this important council event.

Jay Worona, NYSSBA's General Counsel, started our program with an informal 'fireside' chat with our attendees. After a brief update on new regulations and legal decisions, Jay focused on reviewing some of the legal mistakes school administrators make. In an interactive presentation, Jay worked with attendees on how to prevent legal problems for our schools.

Following a buffet dinner, school

attorneys James Drohan, Laura Del Gaudio, and Neel Choudhury, from the law firm of Donoghue, Thomas, Auslander & Drohan addressed our audience in a presentation entitled *What can you say? What can't you say?* They spoke about how school administrators should work with parents, the public, and the press when faced with custody orders, subpoenas, separation agreements, lawyers, and the legal process.

The evaluations we received from our attendees were excellent, and MHSSC was encouraged to continue to offer such worthwhile and valuable programs for school leaders.



Deb Haab (Highland) and Leslie Ford (Onteora) with Jay Worona



School attorney Jim Drohan is flanked by Mike Rydell and James DiDonna from Ellenville

Save the Dates

Workshop For Newly Elected School Board Members

June 5, 2010
9:00 AM until 1:00 PM
Newburgh Ramada Inn

AGENDA

*Legal Responsibilities of School Board Service
Your First School Board Meeting
Understanding Boardmanship
Asking Good Questions
Making Wise Decisions
Realities of Board Service
Building Positive Relationships*

Leadership in the Millennium

August 2 - 6, 2010
9:00 AM until 4:00 PM
The Terrace Restaurant, SUNY New Paltz
*A multi-day course/conference addressing current
issues and concerns for today's school leaders*

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MHSSC's 55th Annual School Law Conference

August 6, 2010
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Lecture Center, SUNY New Paltz
*Important new developments in education law
with a copy of the proceedings
for each person in attendance*

MHSSC - Hudson Valley's collective voice for public education

MHSSC Executive Committee Members 2009-2010

President - Anne M. Byrne, Nanuet
Vice President - Richard Hooley, Valley Central
Treasurer - Ivan Katz, Fallsburg
Past President - Christopher Como, Dutchess BOCES

Valencia Douglas - Nyack, Richard Feller - Monticello, Leslie Ford - Onteora, Roberta Greene - Washingtonville, Gerard Gretzinger - Kingston, Kenneth Hilton - Sullivan West, Lloyd Jaeger - Millbrook, Edward McCormick, Arlington/Dutchess BOCES, Dean Robert Michael - SUNY New Paltz, Martha Murray - Minisink Valley, Carl Onken - O/U BOCES, Frank Pepe - Arlington, Joseph Phelan - Rhinebeck, Joseph Sciortino - Pawling, Mark Silverstein - Hawthone-Cedar Knolls, Marc Space - Putnam Valley, Michael Vanyo - Liberty, Mark Villanti - Haldane, Lisa Wiles - Ellenville, Joseph Zanetti - Tuxedo, Peggy Zugibe - No. Rockland

Ex-Officio Members

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

Visit our website for contact and registration information: mhssc.net

