



## GASB 45 Panel Presentation

On March 25th, MHSSC hosted a panel presentation explaining the details and significance of GASB 45.

Designed for the lay people in our schools, this late afternoon/evening session featured a number of experienced panel members with different areas of expertise. In delivering presentations from their respective points of view, the panel members provided a comprehensive overview of GASB 45. Those in attendance had sufficient time to ask questions and gain greater clarity on GASB 45.

Our first presenter was Dan Duffy from the Office of the New York State Comptroller. We were delighted to have Dan journey from Albany to begin our program.

Jim Drohan and Stuart Waxman (Donoghue, Thomas, Auslander & Drohan) teamed together to deliver an outstanding segment on the legal ramifications of GASB 45.

Frank Iannucci, Jane Flanagan, and Lou Bach (Summit Actuarial Services) contributed to our program by describing the work of actuarials and discussing the types of service they provide.

Our final speaker for the evening was Bill Trainor (Nugent & Haeussler, P.C.) who spoke from an accountant's point of view and gave important guidance to our school officials.

Those in attendance found this session timely, informative, worthwhile, and interesting.



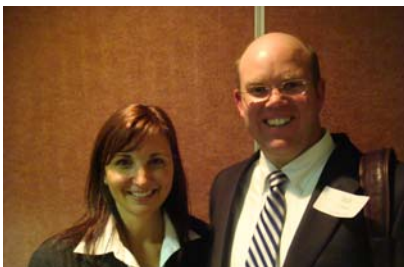
Sher Singh (Pine Bush) with MHSSC President Christopher Como and Dan Duffy (Comptroller's Office)



Frank Iannucci, Jane Flanagan, and Lou Bach from Summit Actuarial Services



Newburgh board members Tom Woodhull, Runston Lewis, and Dawn Fuchek



Tawnya Grace (O/U BOCES) with Bill Trainor (Nugent & Haeussler, P.C.)

## Calendar Highlights

### *Workshop for Newly Elected School Board Members*

June 6, 2009  
Newburgh Ramada Inn

### *Annual Meeting Executive Committee Meeting*

June 10, 2009 at Noon  
Newburgh Ramada Inn

### *The Financial Responsibilities of School Board Members (Required Course)*

June 13, 2009  
Cascarino's Catering  
Rte. 208, Montgomery

### *Annual School Law Conference*

August 7, 2009  
SUNY New Paltz

## MHSSC

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## Legal Update for School Administrators

MHSSC's annual Legal Update for School Administrators was held on March 12th at the Newburgh Ramada Inn.

Howard Miller and Howard Wexler (Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC) opened our session talking about legal issues involving student and staff discipline and investigations in a digital age. In a timely and informative presentation, Mr. Miller and Mr. Wexler provided our attending administrators with important legal guidance.

Termination, layoffs, and recall were the topics discussed after dinner. James Drohan and Stuart Waxman (Donoghue, Thomas, Auslander & Drohan) spoke about staff reductions, seniority lists, and recall when there are financial re-

ductions in school district budgets. Their hand out materials provided a wealth of information to our attending members and gave legal clarification to the current laws on employment.

This program, now in its fourth year, provides a practical, hands-on guide to our school leaders in an informal and interactive environment. Focusing on two topics of current concern at each session, these meetings give our participants an excellent opportunity to learn about recent, important legal updates and converse with school attorneys about the application of the law in actual school situations.

The evaluations we received indicated our audience found this session timely and valuable.



Presenters Howard Wexler and Howard Miller with Holly Eikszta, Scott Shaw, and Michael Moore (Ellenville)



Joan Carbone (Pine Bush) and John Kolesar (Warwick) flank attorney, Stuart Waxman

### FOCUS ON RESEARCH



In January MHSSC issued our annual reports on True Tax and Enrollment and Cost per Pupil.

In early March, we sent the Mid-Hudson DATA POINTS Almanac to each of our member districts. This comprehensive book contains a wealth of information and is very useful to our districts.

A modified finance study has been issued. Because SED has been unable to release the data needed to complete our finance study, we asked our districts to submit this information directly to the MHRIC. A number of districts were unable to submit the necessary data, and we ran the report with only 35 respondents. This provided our districts

with a timely, valid report but a smaller sample.

We expect SED to post the data we need in late spring/early summer. We will then issue a complete report and begin a new, more realistic time frame for the annual finance study, and our districts will be able to use this report throughout the year .

At the direction of our research director, Terrence Olivo, MHSSC's research committee will meet in June to assess the research efforts of our study council and plan next year's projects. If you have any suggestions for survey reports or research projects that may be useful to your district, please share your ideas and suggestions with us.

## Workshop for District Clerks



Dan Petigrow

In early March school district clerks had an opportunity to attend MHSSC's annual workshop at the Newburgh Ramada Inn.

This breakfast meeting gave our attending clerks an opportunity to learn about recent statutory changes regarding the open meetings law, FOIL, the annual district meeting, and school board elections.

Dan Petigrow, an experienced school attorney with Donoghue, Thomas, Auslander & Drohan spent the morning speaking with our attending district clerks.

Dan provided important legal updates, distributed valuable reference materials, and answered the many questions asked by those in attendance.

# Preparing Administrators for Shhh! Issues

By Dr. Josephine Moffett

Educational Administration Department, SUNY New Paltz



In 2008, I decided to take on the challenge of creating a new course that would help future leaders investigate and reflect on equity issues and how they impact students in schools. This decision came about after having many discussions with graduate students about the impact of NCLB, immigration, the achievement gap, and many issues that revolved around issues of educational equity.

Most SUNY New Paltz graduate students grew up and worked in homogenous environments and do not really see the need to “level the playing field” for all students. Many middle class educators of color who work in similar environments share these views. Race, gender, and class

issues are uncomfortable for many and evoke strong emotions. There simply is not enough time in the syllabi of most courses to do justice to these important issues.

An experience in a Westchester school with a diverse population was the final impetus I needed to develop the course, *Leadership and Equity*. While visiting an intern, I was briskly “welcomed” by the school’s receptionist. I was a few minutes early so I was asked to wait. I observed this receptionist greet an African American teacher’s aide with the following greeting. “Yo mama, is it time to leave? ,” Five minutes later, an elderly Latino gentleman came into the waiting room and in very halting English asked to pick up his granddaughter. The receptionist raised her voice so everyone in the office could hear and asked why “These people” could not learn English. My intern told me that this receptionist has been rude in the past. Yes, I can imagine what you are thinking and I agree with you. This is a problem with supervision, but it is also an indication of how people of color are often treated.

Racism, sexism and class differ-

ences (along with other forms of bias) greatly impact our society and schools; yet, we seldom discuss the issues or quickly gloss over them. Educators are an important force in helping overcome the effects of societal bias and discrimination. Educational leaders have an even larger responsibility. When administrators shirk their responsibilities due to fear, timidity or a need to “not rock the boat,” we are complicit in perpetuating inequalities and prejudices in our society.

A relevant course is necessary because discussing and gaining new understandings about the existence and effects of bias and discrimination will usually be accompanied by strong emotions. Administrators must be fully and carefully prepared to support and educate teachers as they navigate territory that is acutely foreign to their understanding. Future administrators need to develop skills that build alliances and empathy through personal stories so that strategies are grounded in deep, personal understanding.

One wonders if *Leadership and Equity* should be a core course in programs for educational administration.

## Annual Meeting / Executive Committee

June 10, 2009

Because of the current financial constraints facing our districts, MHSSC has decided not to host an annual dinner meeting this spring. Instead, we will combine our June executive committee meeting with our annual meeting on June 10, 2009, at the Newburgh Ramada Inn.

Superintendents and school board members will have an opportunity to attend this luncheon meeting and adopt our budget for next year and vote on our slate of officers for 2009-10. Registration notices will be mailed in early May.

The council’s budget committee is recommending a flat, rollover budget for next year with no increase in dues. The committee is recommending that we suspend our current dues schedule which includes a 2% increase for next year.

The following slate of officers will be presented by the nominating committee: President, Anne Byrne (Nanuet), Vice President, Richard Hooley (Valley Central), Treasurer, Carmine Giangreco (Roscoe), and Past President, Chris Como (Dutchess BOCES).

Visit our website at

**[mhssc.net](http://mhssc.net)**

to register online for

MHSSC conferences

and to view

calendar updates.

## School Board Training Sessions

### *Workshop for Newly Elected School Board Members*

June 6, 2009  
9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at Newburgh Ramada Inn

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MHSSC and Nugent & Haeussler, P.C.  
*present the 5 required courses on*

### *The Fiscal Responsibilities of School Board Members*

June 13, 2009 ~ 8:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Cascarino's Catering, Rte. 208, Montgomery

Cost: \$40.00 per person, members

*Board members elected this year (May 2009) and last year (May 2008) are eligible to take this course within the one year requirement. This course is open to all board members, district personnel, and audit committee members.*

## New Paltz Suspends Admissions To Several Education Graduate Programs

As part of the cost-saving measures taken by the college due to cuts in our state-appropriated 2009-2010 operating budget, admission to the M.S. Ed. and M.A.T programs in Chemistry, Earth Science, French, Mathematics and Spanish is suspended. All currently enrolled students will have the opportunity to complete their program.

Despite the fact that many of these programs are in high-need subject areas, they have been unable to attract substantial enrollment. Because we are not deactivating these programs, over the next several years faculty in related departments may be able to redevelop the programs in ways that insure sufficient enrollment.

## MHSSC Executive Committee Members 2008-2009

President - Christopher Como, Dutchess BOCES

Vice President - Anne Byrne, Nanuet

Treasurer - Richard Hooley, Valley Central

Past President - Debra Lynker, Retired

Eileen Camasso - Rondout Valley, Valencia Douglas - Nyack, Richard Feller - Monticello, Carmine Giangreco - Roscoe, Roberta Greene - Washingtonville, Lloyd Jaeger - Millbrook, Ivan Katz - Fallsburg, Edward McCormick, Arlington/Dutchess BOCES, Dean Robert Michael - SUNY New Paltz, Brian Monahan - North Rockland, Martha Murray - Minisink Valley, Carl Onken, O/U BOCES, Frank Pepe - Arlington, Joseph Phelan - Rhinebeck, Jane Sandbank - Brewster, Joseph Sciortino - Pawling, Mark Silverstein - Hawthone-Cedar Knolls, 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, District Superintendent - Sullivan BOCES

John Pennoyer - Dutchess BOCES, Rockland BOCES, Martin Ruglis - Ulster BOCES,

Robert Monson - Southern Westchester BOCES

Honorary Member - William F. Moran

### Staff

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

