



Tom Rogers Headlines Annual Meeting

On April 5th, MHSSC members welcomed Tom Rogers, Executive Director of NYSCOSS, to our annual dinner meeting at the Inn at Central Valley.

Over 100 attendees enjoyed Tom's erudite remarks as, once again, he shared his wit and wisdom with our members. Truly an engaging speaker, Tom spoke eloquently on education as a national security issue. His visionary comments, interspersed with his signature bantering, provided much food for thought for our school board members and superintendents.

We were delighted to have Tom as

Photo #1

Tom Rogers, Executive Director of NYSCOSS, at MHSSC's Annual Dinner Meeting

our guest speaker, and we appreciate sincerely his willingness to spend an evening with our Hudson Valley educators.

Annual Meeting Highlights

At our annual meeting attending members voted to adopt a 2006-07 budget for MHSSC and elect a slate of officers and executive committee members for the next school year. Elected officers include the following: President, Joseph Zanetti, (Tuxedo), Vice President, Lynn Cymbulski (Wallkill), Treasurer, Mark Silverstein (Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls), and Past President, Marilyn Pirkle (Washingtonville). New executive committee members include John DiNatale (Haldane), Valencia Douglas (Nyack), Richard Feller (Monticello), Carmine Giangreco

(Roscoe), John McCarthy (Highland), and Ed McCormick (Arlington).

The council recognized executive committee members who are leaving the council's governing board this year. Eileen Casey (Monticello), Vito DiCesare (Beacon), and Joseph Natale (Warwick) were honored for their service to MHSSC. Unable to be with us at our annual meeting, Jason Friedman (East Ramapo), Dodge Watkins (No. Rockland), and Justine Winters (Onteora) also will leave the council's executive committee at the end of this school year.

Photo #2

Vice President Joseph Zanetti, President Marilyn Pirkle and Tom Rogers

Photo #3

President Marilyn Pirkle with Joseph Natale, Vito DiCesare and Eileen Casey

Calendar Highlights

Conference for School Counselors

Newburgh Ramada Inn
May 4, 2006

Workshop for Education Office Professionals

Newburgh Ramada Inn
May 31, 2006

Workshop for Newly Elected School Board Members

Cascarino's in Montgomery
June 3, 2006

MHSSC Executive Committee Meeting

Newburgh Ramada Inn
June 8, 2006

Leadership in the Millennium

SUNY New Paltz
July 31, August 1, 2, 3, 4, 2006

Annual School Law Conference

SUNY New Paltz
August 4, 2006

MHSSC

Room 101E, OMB
75 S. Manheim Blvd.
SUNY New Paltz
New Paltz, NY 12561

Tel: (845) 257-2820
FAX: (845) 257-2797

E-mail: doyles@newpaltz.edu
crugerl@newpaltz.edu

Website Address
www.newpaltz.edu/mhssc

Annual Legislative Brunch

Hotel Thayer at West Point

Photo #4

Joseph DiLorenzo (Monroe-Woodbury)
with Senator John Bonacic

Approximately 120 people attended our annual legislative brunch at the Hotel Thayer. Co-sponsored by the Bank of America and chaired by legislative director, Ed Stoddard, this event was attended by numerous area legislators, school superintendents, and school board members. Besides enjoying a delicious buffet brunch, our attendees had an important opportunity to discuss current legislative issues and concerns with our elected officials.

Photo #6

Senator William J. Larkin addresses our audience

Terrence Olivo, MHSSC's Research Director, gave an eloquent summary of our council's legislative platform for 2006. In addition to a summary statement made by Senate Education Chairman Steve Saland, all legislators were given the opportunity to comment on our 2006 platform and the upcoming Albany legislative session.

Photo #7

Senator Steve Saland with Legislative Director Ed Stoddard

Photo #5

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther

Now in its 21st year, this popular brunch continues to be a meaningful and worthwhile event for our superintendents, school board members, and legislators.

Superintendent's Viewpoint

John Guarracino, Greenwood Lake UFSD

The Greenwood Lake UFSD is the only District in Orange County that educates students from grades kindergarten through 8th grade. Greenwood Lake has tuitioned its high school students to neighboring districts since the District's inception. Initially, students were sent to Warwick and then later to Monroe-Woodbury. Over the last 23 years Greenwood Lake has sent its students to Tuxedo.

The relationship between the Districts of Greenwood Lake and Tuxedo has been a positive one for many years.

The education Greenwood Lake students receive allows them the opportunity to attend some of the finest colleges and universities in the country. Unfortunately, Tuxedo is one of the wealthiest districts in the state. The large disparity in wealth between the two districts has created a high tuition rate that the Greenwood Lake UFSD has had to shoulder. It is for this reason that Greenwood Lake UFSD is looking to build its own high school.

The New York State Education Department is not allowing Greenwood Lake to pursue

this option despite the fact that tuition costs have become burdensome. This is where the other districts in our region can help. We need your support in our effort to secure our own high school. We are doing everything in our power to convince the state that we need to find a viable solution to educating our high school students.

If you are interested in helping us, please contact John J. Guarracino, Superintendent of Schools, at (845) 477-7395 ext. 1000 for more information.

Let's Work Together

By Dr. Robert Michael, Dean of Education, SUNY New Paltz

Ann is a twenty year old senior who majored in secondary education mathematics. She has worked hard and earned an extraordinary 4.0 average, an accomplishment not seen in many instances. Her initial fieldwork experiences indicate that she would be an excellent student teacher, and eventually, a dedicated competent teacher.

However, the college was denied an opportunity to place her in several school districts for numerous valid reasons. She eventually was placed in an accepting high school, having experienced the stress and strain of not having a timely placement.

New York State has made many changes in teacher education. For example, certification titles have been changed, levels of certification have been added, and field and student teaching requirements have been modified. The impact of these changes is now being experienced by the colleges and the public schools.

The changes in field and student teaching requirements have created a significant problem for the schools and the colleges. There is an obvious benefit to the teacher candidates to have the additional 100 hours of pre-student teaching field work and the ex-

perience of teaching in a 'high need' school district as one of the student teaching experiences. However, the schools have not been prepared to deal with this additional influx of teacher candidates. While some of the districts absorb many of the field and student teachers, others have turned them away. The colleges have the mandates, but the school districts do not receive any encouragement from the state to participate. While some individuals talk of professional responsibility, the extra effort to place the teacher candidates in field and student teaching positions in the schools is not

seen.

Public schools in New York State need to recognize that proper education of potential teachers serves them in the long run. We want to have teacher candidates that have the proper field and student teaching experiences prior to arriving at the public schools' door steps. The way to do this is to meet the colleges halfway with these mandates. The colleges rely on the schools' cooperation and assistance.

This is the only way Ann, the secondary mathematics teacher, will arrive in the schools fully prepared to educate the children. Let's work together.

SUNY New Paltz Benefits From Professor's Leadership

Assistant Professor of Educational Administration David Gee's tenure as president of AASA has brought a significant benefit to SUNY New Paltz.

The college received recently the first installment of a \$25,000 stipend in compensation for the time Dr. Gee spends attending conferences and working on AASA projects. A check for \$10,000 was presented recently to Robert Michael, Dean of the School

of Education and David Lavalley, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. The second installment will be awarded in June, 2006. The money will be divided between the School of Education and the College, and a portion of the funds will be used to establish an annual scholarship to be awarded to aspiring school administrators registered in the SUNY New Paltz School of Education program.

Photo #8

Dean Robert Michael, David Gee, and Provost David Lavalley

Executive Committee Member Profile

Photo #9

Joseph Zanetti, Tuxedo UFSD

Joseph P. Zanetti was first elected to MHSSC's executive committee in 2001. Since then he has served on numerous study council committees and assumed the leadership positions

of treasurer and vice president. He becomes president on July 1st.

Joe started his career in education as a teacher of math and business. His administrative career began in 1985 when he served as business administrator in the Tuxedo School District. He moved to Assistant Superintendent in 1996 and has been superintendent in Tuxedo since 1998.

His numerous credits include receiving the 1999 Pathfinder Award from NYSAWA, serving as past president of the Mid-Hudson Association of School Business Officials, and

presenting at local, regional, and state conferences.

A native of Orange County, NY, Joe was educated at SUNY Orange, SUNY Albany, and SUNY New Paltz. He and his wife, Susan, are the proud parents of three sons, Justin, Ryan, and Brendan.

When he has time, Joe enjoys photography, camping, boating, and jet skiing.

Joe is looking forward to extending his service in the public education arena by serving as president of our study council.

MHSSC Provides Orientation Session for Newly Elected School Board Members

In cooperation with area school boards associations, MHSSC will host its annual orientation program for newly elected school board members on June 3rd from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. We will hold this event at Cascarino's Catering in Montgomery. Directions will be included in the notices we mail to each district in early May.

With a number of different presenters, this morning program provides essential orientation information for our newly elected school board members. Experienced school attorney David Shaw will begin our program by explaining the legal responsibilities of school board members. Richard Hooley, Superintendent of the Valley Central School District, will speak about the role of the superintendent and the importance of developing a positive working relationship between the board and the superintendent.

The agenda also includes sessions on governance and oversight vs. micromanagement, understanding *boardsmanship*, ethics for school board members, and a review of the organizational meeting in July.

During lunch, attendees will have

an opportunity to meet with representatives from their county school boards associations to learn about their local organizations.

Designed as an orientation session for individuals who will assume school board service in July, this program can also serve as a refresher course for veteran school board members. We encourage veteran board members to attend this workshop with their newly elected individuals to assist in the orientation process.

In a very short period of time, this program provides essential information for the newly elected board members in our region. It will provide them with an important base of knowledge on how boards of education function.

This workshop is not intended as a substitute for NYSSBA's weekend seminars for new school board members in July and September, rather it is a local effort to help prepare individuals for their first board meetings of the new school year.

Notices and reservation forms will be mailed in the beginning of May. We urge you to encourage the attendance of your newly elected board members.

Be sure to encourage your newly elected board members to attend MHSSC's Annual Orientation Session for Newly Elected School Board Members on June 3, 2006

MHSSC Executive Committee Members 2005-2006

President - Marilyn O. Pirkle, Washingtonville

Vice President - Joseph Zanetti, Tuxedo

Treasurer - Mark Silverstein, Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls

Past President - Edward McCormick, Arlington

Ann Bogert - O/U BOCES, Anne Byrne - Nanuet, Eileen Casey - Monticello, Christopher Como - Dutchess BOCES, Lynn Cybulski - Wallkill, Alan Derry - Sullivan West, Vito DiCesare - Beacon, Matthew Frumess - Liberty, Richard Hooley - Valley Central, Debra Lynker, Livingston Manor - Dean Robert Michael - SUNY New Paltz, Joseph Natale - Warwick Valley, Carl Onken, O/U BOCES, Frank Pepe - Arlington, Joseph Phelan - Rhinebeck, Marilyn Terranova - Carmel, Dodge Watkins - North Rockland, Lisa Wiles - Ellenville, Justine Winters - Onteora, Joseph Zambito - South Orangetown, Peggy Zugibe - No. Rockland

Ex-Officio Members

Steven Poskanzer - SUNY New Paltz President, Martin Handler - Sullivan BOCES, Robert Hanna - Orange/Ulster BOCES, James Langlois - Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, John Pennoyer - Dutchess BOCES, James Ryan - Rockland BOCES, Martin Ruglis - Ulster BOCES, Ronald Smalls - Southern Westchester BOCES

Honorary Member - William F. Moran

Staff

Chris Bergner - Research Associate
Lynne Cruger - Assistant to the Director
Terrence Olivo - Research Director
Ed Stoddard - Legislative Director
Susan Doyle - Executive Director

