

NEWS NOTES

May
2016



(315) 332-7294

Web Site: www.4csba.org Email: 4countysba@edutech.org

Kathy Hart
President

Beth Thomas
1st Vice President

Caroline Nevil
2nd Vice President

Kathy Guenther
*Immediate
Past President*

Bill Buchko
*Legislative
Committee Chair*

Robin Johnson
*Legislative
Committee Vice
Chair*

Chuck Rothfuss
*Appointed
Representative*

Jeanne Durfee
*Appointed
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Russ Harris
*Appointed
Representative*

**Sharon A.
Sweeney**
Executive Director

Sarah Sarkar
*Administrative
Assistant*

SAVE THE DATE

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ANNUAL MEETING Monday May 23, 2016

**Belhurst Castle
Geneva, NY**

5:30 Registration/Conversation

Display of Student Artwork—Canandaigua CSD

6:30 Student Musical Performance—Victor CSD

6:45 Dinner

7:45 Annual Business Meeting

8:00 Commissioner MaryEllen Elia, Guest Speaker

MaryEllen Elia is the New York State Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York (USNY).

In this role, she oversees the work of more than 700 school districts with 3.2 million students, 7000 libraries, 900 museums, and 52 professions encompassing more that 850,00 licensees.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As the school year draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment and tell you what an honor it's been for me to serve as President of Four County SBA. It's been a busy year --- and, I think, a productive one. From early morning Legislative Committee meetings to late night Board of Directors and Steering Committee meetings, we have all worked hard to do our best for the children. I'd like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to make Four County SBA the wonderful, collaborative organization that it is.

As we continue to deal with the ever increasing (and unfunded) mandates, the inadequate state aid formula, and the burdens of the tax levy cap, I encourage everyone in Four County to continue to be creative, collaborative, and committed to teamwork. I am reminded of the African Proverb: If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.

Best of luck with your upcoming budget votes and BOE elections. May you all enjoy a well deserved respite over the summer. Hope to see many of you at our Annual Meeting on May 23rd!

Kathy

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From Your Area Director

As all of us approach our budget hearings and Budget votes on May 17, I am hopeful that all of our communities value the programs and opportunities each of our districts provides the children through our schools. I also wish you well in elections for Board seats; the role of being effective school board members is an awesome responsibility.

Building school budgets that can maintain programs for kids, when we would all desire to enhance opportunities, has been difficult, to say the least, over the past several years. It has been our struggle crafting budgets that support programs balanced with our constituents "ability to pay". Even though the gap elimination adjustment (GEA) has finally been eliminated in this year's State budget, our work is not done; we must continue our advocacy efforts with our legislators to impress upon them the value of the State's investment in education and those advocacy efforts must be year-round. We must renew efforts to have our legislators fight for a fair and fully funded Foundation Formula. We must continue to talk with our legislators to address the burden of the myriad of unfunded mandates forced upon local school districts while saddling us with an ill-conceived tax cap formula.

Your commitment and dedication to your communities and, more importantly, the children, through your volunteer service, is incredible and admirable. Thank you for serving and advocating for our kids who are our future! And again, as I stated above, I wish you all success on your budget votes.

Rodney

GET ACQUAINTED EVENING

Four County will once again host an evening for newly elected school board members. (See below for details). The purpose of this event is an early connection with the newest members and an opportunity to help prepare them for their first few months on the board. (The Mandatory Governance Workshop will be held early in the fall.) As always, school board presidents (or designees) and superintendents are invited to attend as well. The Four County office will send a welcome letter and invitation to each immediately after the election. Encouragement about the value of participation from current board members and the superintendent would be appreciated.

Monday, June, 20, 2016

Registration – 5:45

Dinner – 6:15

Program – 6:45

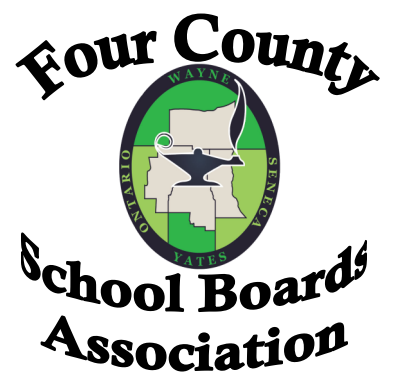
Location TBA

Encourage your newly elected members to join us!

Board Presidents (or designees) and Superintendents are invited to come along!

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FOUR COUNTY ATTENDANCE AT NSBA CONFERENCE

Once again Executive Director **Sharon Sweeney** attended the National School Boards Association's Annual Conference, held this year in Boston from April 9 – 11. In future issues she will offer her "Best from Boston" reflections on the often energizing, often thought provoking, always informative speakers and session she attended.

Nancy Scher attended on behalf of the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and offers the following thoughts from her experience:

What a whirlwind of energy and information the NSBA Convention this past month in Boston was! From Dan Rather who was our first General session speaker on Saturday morning until Tony Wagner our final speaker on Monday morning our days were crammed full of study halls, sessions of all sizes and wonderful opportunities to network with our colleagues from across the country.

The messages I took from Mr. Rather were that we can learn from others, most specifically Finland and Singapore, with their lack of emphasis on testing, and still have world class learners. That early childhood education and intervention is crucial. That we might do well to return to a greater emphasis on civics.

On Sunday morning, Robin Roberts encouraged us to, "Make our mess our message". She was engaging and warm, while still encouraging us to learn from our mistakes or events that life hands us. To go forward and grow from those experiences.

From Fremont, Wyoming, we learned of a preschool initiative that brings a well-supplied bus and teacher to the homes of young children and their families. The teacher works with the family and child for about an hour on regularly scheduled visits.

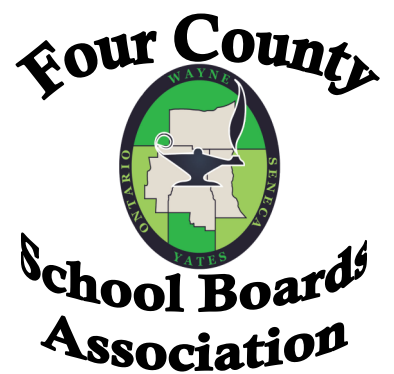
From a study hall session, it was suggested that when difficult issues arise in our communities, that board members might benefit from anticipating questions from community members and actually writing down answers so that when these questions are asked, one might have a considered and intelligent answer.

But for me, the final General Session speaker on Monday morning, Tony Wagner, resonated most of all. Mr. Wagner is a former teacher and principal who now serves as Expert in Residence at Harvard University's Innovation Lab. He is co-author of the book, Most Likely to Succeed: Preparing our Kids for the Innovation Era. In his words, "**Knowledge has become a commodity. The world no longer cares how much our graduates know. What the world cares about is what they do with what they know**". He would encourage education that is collaborative and team based. He observes that fear of failure can be a roadblock to learning for both students and teachers. Innovation by definition will face failure, but that the key is to keep on trying. He further observes that a career and tech path can lead to a very happy, productive life. What a great gift might we hope for our students?

**WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST AS YOUR VOTERS
GO TO THE POLLS
AND SUCCESS TO THOSE SEEKING RE-ELECTION**

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FOUR COUNTY OFFICE TO RELOCATE ON BOCES NEWARK CAMPUS

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES is making some location changes for members of their staff. In that process, the Four County location will change, moving from the current location in the Eisenhower Building across the quad to a space on the first floor at the North end of the Maple Building. External access and the size of this new location will meet our needs very well. Additional information will be provided when timing of the move is known. (Expected to be sometime this summer.) Four County is very pleased to have this arrangement with BOCES for office space, furniture and equipment as well as fee based access to postage and duplicating facilities. At their meeting on April 25, 2016 the Four County Board of Directors approved a five year extension to the lease agreement that outlines this arrangement with the BOCES Board of Education. The BOCES board took similar action at their meeting on May 9, 2016.

WATCH FOR DETAILS

VISION – MISSION – GOALS REVIEW PROCESS CONTINUES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Supper – 5:45 pm Meeting – 6:15 pm

JACK LOVELESS CONFERENCE ROOM

WFL BOCES REGIONAL SUPPORT CENTER NEWARK, NY

The Vision and Mission have been revised and approved by the Board of Directors. At the last meeting the group reviewed the current goals and made some recommendations for revision. A draft of possible revisions has been sent to those who were at the last meeting and will be sent again with a meeting reminder. This should finally wrap up the process. We look forward to your return if you have been with the process from the beginning or welcome you to join us if you have not. **The official notice of the meeting has been sent to all former participants and all board presidents and vice presidents. Make sure your board is represented.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2015-2016

The Steering Committee has identified the following dates as preferred for upcoming Four County events. Topics and other details will be provided as soon as available. In the meantime - make a note on your personal calendar.

Annual Meeting—May 23
Vision Meeting—June 7
Negotiators' Breakfast—June 9
Get Acquainted Evening—June 20
Steering Committee—June 21

Other Spring and Summer Events:
National Advocacy Institute—June 12-14
Rural Schools Conference—July 10-12