

# NEWS NOTES

November  
2014



(315) 332-7294

Web Site: [www.4csba.org](http://www.4csba.org) Email: [4countysba@edutech.org](mailto:4countysba@edutech.org)

## General Membership Meeting

Wednesday December 3, 2014

Club 86 Geneva, NY

5:30 Registration/Conversation  
6:30 Buffet Dinner 7:00 Program

### THE GOVERNANCE TEAM: BOARDS AND SUPERINTENDENTS WORKING TOGETHER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

**Timothy Kremer**—Executive Director, NYSSBA  
**Stephen Uebbing**—Professor, UR Warner School of Education

**The Community elects the Board of Education;  
the Board hires the Superintendent.**  
{Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Chief School Officer (CSO)}.

**Together they form the governance team** – the Board setting vision and policy, the Superintendent implementing that vision through those policies.

- What is the nature of a healthy relationship between these two sides of the team?
- How is it created? •How is it nurtured and sustained?
- What do boards do to hinder their superintendent? •And what does the superintendent do that hinders the board?
- Are all the roles and responsibilities of the superintendent (administration) and the board (governance) always clear? •How are the gray areas handled?
- Are all healthy relationships exactly the same?
- What does the board do if relationships (between board and superintendent, between/among board members) are strained?
- How can the team get back on track to work together for the common good?

Join us on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to explore these and other issues with our knowledgeable, experienced presenters, **Steve** and **Tim**.

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*President*

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*1st Vice President*

**Caroline Nevil**  
*2nd Vice President*

**Anne Morgan**  
*Immediate  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Here we are - a week from Thanksgiving with almost half of the school year behind us. The time certainly does go by quickly! We have been busy this fall here at Four County – the Legislative Committee has been meeting to develop our 2014-15 advocacy agenda, Presidents'/Vice Presidents' have come together, and we are about to host our second General Membership program on December 3rd. I am looking forward to this topic – whether a new or experienced board member it is helpful to be reminded of our role, our responsibilities, and how to nurture a healthy relationship with our superintendent. I look forward to seeing many of you and your superintendents at the program. Our presenters, **Tim Kremer** and **Steve Uebbing**, certainly have the knowledge and experience to provide us with useful insights.

As President it is my responsibility to appoint Committee Chair people. I am happy to announce that **Beth Thomas**, Canandaigua Board Vice President, has accepted the appointment as the Vice Chair of our Legislative Committee. In that role she will also join the Steering Committee. Thanks Beth!

Looking forward to seeing you on December 3 and wishing all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

*Kathy*

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## FROM YOUR AREA 2 DIRECTOR

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*Administrative Assistant*



I would like to thank all of you who attended the NYSSBA convention in New York City. I have heard from many that they felt the sessions were very informative and that it was time well spent. The area directors will be reviewing input from the conference to try and make the experience even better next year. You should have received a survey link for convention feedback; if you have not done so yet, please be sure to complete it. Our goal is to make the annual convention meaningful for you.

I would also like to encourage all of you to be contacting your area legislators while they are in their home districts, usually on Fridays of each week, and speak to them about the need to eliminate the gap elimination adjustment (GEA) this year. There is no justification for taking two more budget cycles to get rid of the GEA; there is no longer a State budget gap that needs eliminating. The State has been taking back funding from our districts for five years from its own formula designed to ensure that all children are afforded the funds necessary for constitutionally guaranteed "sound, basic education". Whatever might be wrong with the foundation formula, the GEA must stop now, this year! Please impress upon your legislator enough is enough. And when doing so, please do so as "a parent" or "a concerned tax payer" rather than as "a school board member". Our legislators need to know this is an entire community issue and not just a superintendent/school board issue.

Finally, I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving. I am hopeful you will be able to share the holiday with family or, if family is not near-by, then with friends. We have much to be thankful for. I am thankful for all the work you do for the children in our districts.

Happy Thanksgiving.

*Rodney*

### SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR WHAT WORKS PROGRAM January 29, 2015

Does your district have a particularly unique or successful program that you would like to brag about and other boards would like to hear about?

We will once again offer the very popular "What Works" format for the General Membership program that is scheduled for January 29. This is an opportunity to share "best practices" with your Four County colleagues. It has led to the cloning of or the adaptation of programs that were shared in the past.

To nominate a program from your district contact the Four County office.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

5:45 p.m.

December 3, 2014

(Prior to the General Membership Meeting)

Club 86 Geneva, New York

The agenda will include a review of fall financial activity and consideration of the parameters for the 2015-16 Four County Budget and Dues.

**MAKE SURE YOUR BOARD IS REPRESENTED**

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## NYSSBA NEWS

A small number of Four County members and superintendents traveled to New York City for NYSSBA's 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

In addition to representing their boards at the Annual Business Meeting, they attended workshops, special sessions, networked with colleagues from around the state, and reviewed the displays on the Exposition floor. Among the actions taken at the Business Meeting was the election of NYSSBA Officers for 2015.

Congratulations to the following members on their re-election for a second one-year term: **President Lynne Lenhardt, Vice President Susan Bergtraum, Vice President William Miller, and Treasurer Tom Nespeca.**

**NYSSBA** will hold their annual **Winter Law Conference in Rochester** on Friday, December 12. Go to [www.nyssba.org](http://www.nyssba.org) for details and to register.

## FCSBA at the NYSSBA CONVENTION

**Four County** once again joined colleagues from the **Erie County, Genesee Valley, Monroe County, Nassau-Suffolk, Orleans-Niagara, Rockland, and Westchester-Putnam** school boards associations to host the **Upstate-Downstate Hospitality Suite and Resolutions Discussion.**

**A huge thank you to C & S Companies – especially Mike DiPerna, Crystal Rhode and Shibel Jibaji for generously covering the entire cost of the suite.**

The **Council of Local School Boards Associations (COLSBA)** met during the NYSSBA Convention to plan activities for the coming year and elect members to their Steering Committee. FCSBA Executive Director **Sharon Sweeney** was elected for a two-year term. COLSBA leadership is comprised of two local association executive directors/secretaries and two association presidents.

**SAVE THE DATE    SAVE THE DATE    SAVE THE DATE**

## MANDATORY FISCAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 7, 2015

7:45 am-3:45 pm

Jack Loveless Conference Room

Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES

Newark, NY

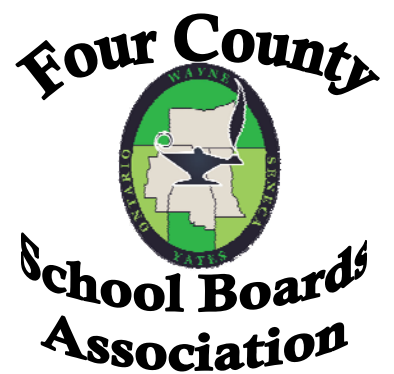
\$95.00 members

\$135.00 non-members

(\$25 veteran members who would like a refresher)

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## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE BY Bill Buchko, Legislative Committee Chair

The Legislative Committee has met 3 times over the past several weeks to develop the Four County State, Regulatory, and Federal advocacy agendas. The group has taken the input from representatives of each of the member boards and received information from **David Little**, recently retired NYSSBA Governmental Relations Director, to start to form position papers which will be the springboard for our advocacy efforts. We have gone through many of the issues and look to develop a solid focus for what we are going to advocate for on behalf of our member districts. Member boards are encouraged to send their representatives to our next meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> as we prioritize our State Legislative efforts and review the first draft of the Federal position papers. It is lively debate on a Saturday morning over some excellent snacks and coffee so please come join us. I would also like to welcome **Beth Thomas** (Canandaigua) appointed by President **Kathy Guenther** as our Legislative Committee Vice Chair.

## FCSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SPONORS STATE AID WORKSHOP

As they grappled with the issues for the Four County 2014-2015 legislative position papers, members of the Legislative Committee recognized that, while they talked a lot about state aid and the need to remedy the formula, they really knew very little about it.

They agreed that if they were to be effective advocates they needed to remedy that lack of knowledge. As a result, the Committee is sponsoring a workshop for any Four County member who would like to join them to learn the ins and outs of the current formula that drives state aid to school districts.

### STATE AID: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

December 18, 2014  
6:30 p.m.

Jack Loveless Conference Room  
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Regional Support Center  
131 Drumlin Court  
Newark, New York

The experts presenting the information are:

**Julie Marlette**, Director, NYSSBA Governmental Relations  
**Brian Fessler**, NYSSBA Governmental Relations Representative

A technical description of the ins and outs of the current state aid formula!

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## LEGISLATIVE POSITION PAPER WORKSHOP IV

**Saturday, December 13, 2014**

**8:00 – 10:45 a.m.**

Continuing Education Conference Room

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES

131 Drumlin Court

Newark, New York

**The discussions are informative, the coffee hot, and the goodies provided by the bakers of the group delicious!**

**A great way to develop the Four County 2014-15 legislative platform and learn about the issues!**

*(See Update)*

**NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE DISCUSSION**

*(There is no fee to your school district to participate)*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2014-2015

**FCSBA General Membership—Dec. 3, Jan. 29, Mar. 3**

**FCSBA Board of Directors—Dec. 3, Jan. 29 (with Legislative Committee), Mar. 3**

**Steering Committee—Jan. 19**

**Legislative Committee—Jan. 29 (with Board of Directors) (plus the Saturday Position Paper workshops)**

**FCSBA Annual Meeting—May 18**

### **Other Winter Events:**

**NYSSBA Winter Law Conference—Rochester—Dec. 12**

**Legislative Position Paper Workshop—Dec. 13**

**State Aid Workshop—Dec. 18**

**NSBA National Advocacy Institute (NAI)—Feb. 1-3**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

**From FCSBA**

*Wishing you a time to pause and celebrate with family and friends!*