



Please join us on the following dates:

November 27, 2023

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Conference Center
Buffet - Catered by Club 86

Professional Development Meeting

Guest Speaker - **Katherine Hammill**
Director of School Library System, WFL BOCES

**“Love Your Library:
Navigating School Libraries in the 21st Century”**

We would love to have your Librarians join us!

February 26, 2024

Location TBD

Professional Development Meeting

Guest Speaker - **Dr. Kevin McGowan**
Superintendent, Brighton Central School District

**2023 New York State Superintendent of the Year
And**

2023 National Superintendent of the Year

May 16, 2024

Location TBD

(Please note date change due to speaker availability)

Annual Meeting

Guest Speaker - **Zach Arenz**

2024 New York State Teacher of the Year
Instrumental & General Music Teacher @ Flower
Rochester City School 54

We would love to have your Music Teachers join us!

We would like to thank:

C&S Companies

Construction Management Group



For sponsoring our
2nd Annual
Spring Conference

President	Legislative Committee Chair	Executive
Vice President	Immediate Past President	Director
Messages	NYSSBA Area 2 Director	Message
	Messages	
Page 2	Page 3	Page 4

**2ND ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE
MARCH 22, 2024**



Registration **8:00-8:45 am**

Opening Remarks **8:45-9:00 am**

Opening Presentation **9:00-9:45 am**

6 Breakout Rooms **10:00-10:45** and **11:00-11:45 am**

Lunch **11:45-12:30 pm**

Key Note Speaker **12:30-3:30 pm**

8:45-9:00 am: Opening Remarks - Emcee - **David Little**,
RSA Executive Director

9:00-9:45 am: Diamond Room - Opening Presentation:
John Kelley - Coordinator of Safety and Security, WFL
BOCES and **Matthew Miraglia**, President/CEO, CLPS
Consultants - TAP App

Topic Title: **Before and After School and Special Events
Security & Best Practices for Schools**

Break out rooms - **10:00-10:45** and **11:00-11:45 am**

Room #1: **Andy Doell**, Superintendent, Bloomfield CSD
Title of Topic: **Recruitment & Retention of teachers in Rural
Districts**

Room #2: **Lorianne DeForest**, OMC BOCES, and President
of the Jamesville-Dewitt School BOE
Topic Title: **Data & The Role Of The Board**

Room #3: **Darci D'Ercole**, NYSSBA's Director of
Leadership Development, Topic Title: **Better Board Leader-
ship - Better boards set the tone and lead by example. The
top things that better boards do when they lead well.**

Room #4: **Patrick Longo**, NYSSBA's Member Relations
Manager, Topic Title: **A Culture of Leadership**

Room #5: **Alexis Clifton**, Interim Director of the Teaching &
Learning Center, Sunny Geneseo
Topic Title: **Artificial Intelligence**

Room #6: **Dr. Carl Stokes**
Topic Title: **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**

11:45-12:30 pm - Lunch - Orchard Café

12:30-3:30 pm - Key Note Speaker

David Budz

- Retired FBI Agent
- Founder, President, and Executive Director of OpOverwatch
- Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Houghton University
- Employed as 3rd grade teacher, Twinsburg School District, Twinsburg, Ohio (1996-2002)

*David has offered to stay for a Q&A following his
presentation if you would like to join him*

Updates and information will be sent out regularly

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just a note to thank all of you for your efforts in support of our schools and students. Fall sports are winding down, as we shift into the Winter sports and the holiday season. I attended the NYSSBA Conference in Buffalo. There was much to see and learn and I found the breakout sessions informative. I attended BOE leadership training, which emphasized appreciation for all that board of education members do. The BOCES Education Consortium session provided a current update and report on advocacy efforts. In addition, I attended sessions by Rural Schools Association and COLSBA.

Attending as many break-out sessions as time would allow, I came away with the following highlights. I learned of innovative formula-based strategies to motivate and build resilience in all students, by the Why Try organization. A session on developing effective questioning techniques for board members, which involves framing questions in a way that demonstrates a commitment to the mission while leading to enhanced understanding of the topic or issue. Another standout session focused on the Board's role in empowering all stakeholder voices and encouraging students' voices to be heard, and active involvement, especially in DEI initiatives. A session on evidence-based programming for students and families emphasized the power and accessibility and effectiveness of community and agency partnerships in serving the diverse needs of our students and families to reduce substance abuse, improve emotional regulation and make healthy choices. For more information on any of the sessions I attended, please reach out to me and I can share the presenter's contact information. The closing keynote presentation on the power of mentorship and networking was a strong reminder of the importance of our work to provide ongoing, timely guidance, support and enhanced communication and networking opportunities for our members. We strive to promote a proactive mentorship and networking culture for you to encourage within and throughout each of your school communities. It was good to see folks that I have come to know over the years, as well as to make new connections throughout the conference.

I wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and safe travels as our winter weather sets in once again.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Four County School Boards Association.

Joe McNamara

Four County SBA President
Seneca Falls BOE and WFL BOCES BOE
jmcnamara@senecafallscsd.org



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

As I am writing this, I cannot believe we are in the second week of November already! In my home district I have seen so many activities in the last several weeks that bring a smile to my face. I hope you have all been enjoying the fun and energy the new school year brings.

I know in addition to our regular duties everyone was busy thinking about the **2023** NYSSBA resolutions and making sure their voices were heard last month. To all who were part of the very long meeting to represent your district "thank you" seems inadequate for the time you volunteered to cast your district's votes. Your efforts do not go unnoticed!

Here at 4 County, we have been busy as well! We have been collecting data from our component school boards to see what you care about most. We sent out our position paper and a short survey that we would greatly appreciate your feedback on. It only takes a few minutes of your time at your next board meeting, and the data is valuable to us so we can focus on what YOU think is most important for your district!

I attended the NYSSBA Convention and Expo in Buffalo, and learned so much! These events are so inspiring and informative, you can't help but come back to your home district refreshed and ready to share what you learned. Topics ranging from electric school buses, veterans' programs with senior students, effective board meetings/handling conflict, suicide prevention, to diversity and equity – the list is so long! It was wonderful to see familiar faces there.

Speaking of wonderful programming, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the awesome opportunity 4 County provided for school board members to tour PTECH last month. The students took us on tours and were so passionate about explaining their lived experience attending school there. PTECH has opened so many doors for these students, and staff are excited to be potentially expanding their programming soon. The tour and presentation gave an in-depth experience to better understand the coursework and college/career opportunities offered to PTECH students. We are so lucky to have this amazing programming available to students in our region. The excitement was contagious!

As we head into the holiday season, I wanted to share a quote from Maya Angelou – "Be present in all things and thankful for all things." This very simple yet powerful statement embodies all this season brings no matter how you celebrate. It is my sincerest wish that you are all able to slow down a little to be present in all things and that you share with those around you why you are thankful.

Carrie Resch

Four County SBA Vice President
Wayne Board of Education
cresch@waynecsd.org



MESSAGE FROM THE NYSSBA AREA 2 DIRECTOR

It was a pleasure seeing many of you in Buffalo for the NYSSBA Convention at the end of October as we discussed ways to help every child reach their full potential. I was impressed with the keynote speakers and their messages. Of note our opening keynote Reverend Tutu “Our Shared Humanity” and closing keynote Liz Murray on “The Power of Mentorship”; her inspirational story left very few dry eyes in the room. I am hopeful that you found the breakout sessions informative and educational for your districts and your roles as School Board members. We also had many vendors as part of the expo; hopefully you found conversations with some of them enlightening. Please be sure to complete and submit the Convention Survey as to what went well from your perspective and future convention opportunities that might enhance the experience for all school board members.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday in a few weeks; I am thankful for each of you and your dedication to your roles as school board members for the children within your communities. I am hopeful that you each have a safe and healthy fall season. And as the weather continues to turn a bit colder, stay well.

Rodney George

NYSSBA Area 2 Director



MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

I missed the conference in Buffalo, but I heard it was good. I did attend the online annual meeting, as a delegate for my district. It started at 4:00 pm and lasted until a little after 11:00 pm, I dozed off a bit at the end so I am not sure when it ended. Nearly 375 delegates voted on 56 resolutions, 35 of which were adopted. It was the most attended meeting in recent history, with robust and thoughtful discussion. The positions adopted will last for five years unless they are changed or achieved sooner. The NYSSBA Governmental Relations team will work to implement the proposals that need legislative change. The meeting was grueling, but also educational and informative. It demonstrated the challenges that our boards face across the state. We need to pay attention to the pressures on our districts and use our advocacy to work with our member boards and NYSSBA. We need to

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Happy fall y'all! It has been a very busy fall for many of us. We have welcomed new and returning students and staff to school, watched homecoming games and parades, and just dealt with planned chaos. I have to admit it has been hard to remember why I signed myself up for this. However, during last week's Board Appreciation Week, presentations from my District's Building Principals reminded me of why I do this thankless and unpaid job (dramatic pause). It is for the students that need a safe place to go, food, and to learn. Emily and I, as Co-Chairs of the Legislative Committee along with the wonderful group who meet once a month, are charged with making sure all of our students get that safe/secure place to enjoy breakfast/lunch, friends and learning. We cannot do this alone. On October 17th, Sue Wyatt sent an email to your Superintendent, Board President, and Board Clerk. This email contains a survey and the 2023 State Position Paper (also attached to the back of this newsletter). The survey will help to identify the Four County area's needs. Please take time during your board meetings to fill out this survey and help us secure the learning for all students. Our next committee meeting is via Zoom at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 11th, Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan will join us to discuss communication and relationships among board members and state lawmakers. We hope you will join us!

Mark your calendar!

February 2, 2024 - Virtual Capital Conference

February 7, 2024 - In-Person NYSSBA Lobby Day in Albany



Julie Nevelizer

Newark BOE

julie.nevelizer@newarkcsd.org



Emily Fisher

Geneva BOE

efisher@genevacsd.org

inform our communities about our position and make sure our representatives know what they can do for us. Advocacy at all levels is important and we need to act!

Russ Harris

Four County SBA Immediate Past President

Newark Board of Education

russell.harris@newarkcsd.org



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I recently attended the NYSSBA Convention in Buffalo, New York, where I enjoyed seeing many of our area school board members while attending breakout sessions and visiting vendors. An area of particular interest among many attendees at the convention was the matter of Electric School Buses. Recall that Governor Hochul recently announced that **\$100** million will be made available on a statewide basis for zero emission school buses, as part of the first round of funding for electric school buses under the **\$4.2** billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of **2022**.

From the breakout sessions at the NYSSBA Convention focused on electric vehicles, I learned that by **2027**, all new school buses will be zero-emission electric vehicles, and that public school districts will be required to have their whole bus fleets be comprised of electric vehicles by **2035**. This statewide initiative will support the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions **85%** by **2050**.

Now is the time for public school districts to begin preparing for zero-emission school bus fleets. A good first step would be for each district to ask their school bus provider to provide a fleet assessment, The fleet assessment would determine how many miles each bus in the fleet travels, and consider the routes traveled by each bus. Factors such as whether buses travel through underprivileged or pollution affected areas will have an impact on state aid calculations for certain districts.

Following the completion of the fleet survey, school districts should ask their local energy provider to conduct a field study for the district, to determine the infrastructure needs in preparing to provide energy for electric vehicles. Because electric vehicles are heavier than those powered by diesel fuel, districts should determine whether their current bus lifts will need to be replaced to accommodate the heavier zero-emission buses that will soon be required. The field study conducted by your local energy company should also consider whether any local roads and bridges along bus routes may be difficult for the new heavier buses to navigate.

Clearly there is much work to be done by public school districts to prepare to meet the requirements for zero-emission bus fleets in the not too distant future. The Four County School Boards Association will continue to share information about transitioning to zero-emission fleets as it becomes available.

Stephen P. Miskell, Ed.D.

Executive Director, Four County SBA
stephen.miskell@wflboces.org



NY State Senator
Pamela A. Helming

*Stephen,
Best Wishes!* 

NEW YORK STATE PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY (NYS PTECH)

The Pathways in Technology Early College High School Program (PTECH) in Newark is a highly successful Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Program. I have taken advantage of visiting PTECH twice in recent weeks, and found both visits to be highly enjoyable and informative.

On Wednesday, September 25, I joined Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Board of Education Members, Associate Superintendent Dr. Erin Fairben, and Senator Pam Helming for a tour of the program, led by proud students and Principal Kathleen McGuigan. A week later, the Four County School Boards Association offered a Professional Development meeting at the PTECH site, where area school board members were given a tour conducted by PTECH students, and learned more about the program from Principal McGuigan and student presenters. The Professional Development program on October 3, provided attendees with the opportunity to learn more about Project Based Learning at PTECH, and interact with Principal McGuigan and members of the PTECH faculty and students.

- Steve Miskell



National FFA Organization

Calling all students!

The National FFA Scholarship application is now available. Whether you're aiming for a trade school, vocational certificate, or college degree, seize this opportunity to apply for a National FFA Scholarship that can pave the way for your educational journey. Seniors in high school or FFA Alumni in college, remember - one application opens doors to multiple scholarships, with a combined value of nearly **\$2.5** million!

Apply today! www.ffa.org/participate/grants-and-scholarships/scholarships/