



THE WINNING LOGO HAS BEEN CHOSEN

Four County SBA held a new Logo Contest asking students to help us redesign our association logo. At the January 24th Board of Directors Meeting the Board reviewed 17 submissions



Student Designers:

Oktoher "Tohbi" Edmister and Vera Butchko are both in Graphic Arts at Newark High School. They worked collaboratively to create the Four County School Boards Association logo. Tohbi is a talented tenth grader who is interested in many creative hobbies. Tohbi is a stage manager for the school theater and musicals. Vera is a twelfth grader who

has brilliant ideas that are expressed through multiple mediums of Art. Vera has been accepted into the Music Recording Technology program at Finger Lakes Community College. She is working to produce music and music festivals in the future.



Left to right: Keely McGowan, Art Teacher, Russ Harris, Tohbi Edmister, Vera Butchko, Newark High School Principal Kelly Zielke, and Newark Superintendent Susan Hasenauer

The Board of Directors voted to present the winners of the chosen design with gift cards. President Russ Harris made the presentation.



New York State Teacher of the Year

To Speak at the Four County School Boards Association's Annual Meeting on May 23, 2023



William "Billy" Green, Jr. A Chemistry Teacher who first tutored fellow students in an abandoned building as a homeless teenager has been named New York State's Teacher of the Year.

We are proud to report that the New York State Teacher of the Year, Billy Green, Jr., will be our featured speaker at our Annual Meeting in May.

On September 13, 2022, the New York State Board of Regents announced that Mr. Green was named the 2023 New York State Teacher of the Year.

Billy Green is presently serving as a chemistry teacher at A. Philip Randolph Campus High School in

Manhattan and will be recognized with other state teachers of the year at a White House reception this spring. NYSED will also put forth Billy's name as the nominee for the 2023 National Teacher of the Year.

New York State Commissioner of Education, Dr. Betty Rosa said, "Billy Green found his calling in the classroom, something I saw firsthand when I visited him with his students. He ignites a spark in them, imparting a love for life-long learning and inspiring them to take charge of their personal and academic responsibilities."

Please reserve May 23rd on your calendar, and plan on joining us at our Annual Meeting at Club 86 in Geneva for what promises to be a very special evening for the Four County School Boards Association.

Read his story here: [Billy Green Jr.](#)

We would like to thank **C&S Construction Management Group** for graciously sponsoring this event including transportation, overnight accommodations, and meals for our guest speaker.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I had the pleasure of presenting gift card to the Four County School Board Logo Contest winners it is always a pleasure to interact with students which is the real reason we do this job.

We are in budget season and as board members we are experiencing many pressures. We got our wish, foundation aid is increasing back to levels we got in prior years, but we have many new issues that face us that require more money and not all of that increase can go to academics. Safety and security, alternative programming and technology are requiring increasing funds.

We play lip service to mental health but are we doing enough? Is the bullet proof glass in the windows and advanced door locks more important than doing all we can to help our troubled youth?

Recent articles in the Washington post talk entitled: The crisis in American girlhood

Teen girls 'engulfed' in violence and trauma, CDC finds

"Teen girls across the United States are "engulfed in a growing wave of violence and trauma," according to federal researchers who [released data Monday](#) showing increases in rape and sexual violence, as well as record levels of feeling sad or hopeless.

Nearly 1 in 3 high school girls reported in 2021 that they seriously considered suicide - up nearly 60 percent from a decade ago - according to new findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Almost 15 percent of teen girls said they were forced to have sex, an increase of 27 percent over two years and the first increase since the CDC began tracking it."

Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University said that increases in most measures of poor mental health in the past decade were more pronounced for girls than boys. She said part of the problem is that digital media has displaced the face-to-face time teens once had with friends, and that teens often don't get enough sleep. Adding to those influences are the hours teens spend scrolling social media. For girls, she said, this often means "comparing your body and your life to others and feeling that you come up wanting."

Some of the most alarming data collected by the CDC involved the rise in suicidal thoughts among teen girls - 24 percent of teen girls have made a plan for suicide while 13 percent have attempted it, almost twice the rate for boys.

Suicidal thoughts are serious but for every student contemplating suicide how many more are so sad that they can't cope with in their environment and act out in other ways.

As we advocate with our state and federal representatives let's not let the let our guard down and as we go into the budget process please think of the balance between safety and security and what we can do for our troubled students and it's effect on our communities.

We need do strong security plans and trained personal to keep our children safe in any event, but what is the balance? Will we save more students by investing in mental health personal or the instillation of bullet proof glass? Why do we have to choose?

Russ Harris

Four County SBA President
Newark Board of Education



Four County SBA Upcoming Events

February

Tuesday 2/28/23 Professional Development - Hybrid

March

Thursday 3/2/23 Agenda Setting Meeting - Zoom

Saturday 3/4/23 Prospective School BOE Member Seminar 9:00 am

Saturday 3/11/23 Legislative Committee 9:00 - Zoom

Thursday 3/16/23 Board of Directors Meeting - Zoom

Friday 3/24/23 First Annual Spring Conference

April

4/1/23 - 4/3/23 NSBA Annual Conference and Exposition-Orlando

Saturday 4/15/23 Legislative Committee 9:00 - Zoom

Tuesday 4/25/23 Professional Development - Hybrid

May

Monday 5/1/23 Agenda Setting Meeting - Zoom (Annual Meeting)

Saturday 5/13/23 Legislative Committee 9:00 - Zoom

Tuesday 5/16/23 Board Elections / Budget Vote

Tuesday 5/23/23 Annual Meeting - Club 86, Geneva

June

Saturday 6/3/23 Legislative Committee 9:00 - Zoom

Tuesday 6/6/23 New Member Get Acquainted Meeting

Saturday 6/10/23 Mandated Governance Training

Tuesday 6/20/23 Professional Development - Hybrid

July

Saturday 7/22/23 Mandated Fiscal Training

Visit our website for regular updates and program information.

www.fourcountysba.org





MESSAGE FROM THE 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

We are into the beginning of a new year and the second half of our school year. It is a busy time for Board of Education Members. With doing mid-year evaluations, working on school budgets and preparing for our advocacy efforts, we keep moving.

To those who were able to join the NYSSBA Capitol Conference virtually or attended the NYSSBA Lobby Day, a big Thank You for your time and energy. Your work to advocate for our schools is much appreciated.

Just a reminder, as we move toward Spring, please take some time for yourselves. Stop and smell the Spring Air and flowers.

Please remember that on Tues., Feb. 28, 2023, we will be holding a Professional Development Session at 5:30. It will be a hybrid meeting.

Thank you for all you do for our students.

Joe McNamara

Four County SBA 1ST Vice President
Seneca Falls BOE and WFL BOCES BOE



MESSAGE FROM THE NYSSBA AREA 2 DIRECTOR

Greetings this winter, if you can call it that. I hope everyone is healthy and enjoying the mild winter, so far. At this point from what we have heard, Governor Hochul's budget discussions FINALLY appear very positive for school districts fully funding of the foundation aid for school districts. We are hopeful that during this or next year the legislature will start reorganizing the formula so that it is fair to meeting the needs of all school districts.

One thing that was not in her budget proposals thus far was Universal lunch. This is certainly an item we should all be advocating for with our local legislators. At NYSSBA, we will continue to lobby for these things, however, your direct contact and conversations with your local State legislators carries tremendous weight with them;

I was in Washington DC Jan 29 - Feb 1 at the NSBA Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute. I had the opportunity to speak with our congresswoman Claudia Tenney and a representative from Senator Schumer's office on NYSSBA legislative priorities which include, additional funding for Title 1 and IDEA programs, restoration of SALT, support for school meals and teacher shortages.

One of our program speakers spoke about a "Financial Cliff" happening in school year 2023/2024 because of the ending of "COVID dollars". Many districts throughout the States may have used additional monies for staffing that they wish or want to keep or other recurring costs for which they may not have the funds to continue to do so in coming years. Hopefully our Superintendents and Business officials are on top of all of this, as is NYSSBA.

I wish you all a successful school year as the next few months usually brings many district musicals and other fine arts performances and the start of spring sports. Looking forward to longer lighted days and hoping your budget development for the next school year goes smoothly.

Rodney George

NYSSBA Area 2 Director





RSA
RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK STATE

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 9-11, 2023 | COOPERSTOWN, NY

2023 ANNUAL RSA SUMMER CONFERENCE

Hear from State and National leaders as they share successful and easily replicable programs you can implement, along with student presentations, motivating speakers, and networking opportunities. Join us as we return to Cooperstown's premier resort, the Otesaga!



SUBSCRIBE TO CONFERENCE UPDATES!
www.RSANY.org/summer2023



MESSAGE FROM THE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

As we come to the end of February and head into March, it is hard to believe we are more than halfway done with the 2022-2023 school year! We are at that time of year where the weather is completely unpredictable. I had to giggle when my family sent a meme that perfectly describes the "11 seasons" in upstate New York. They are:

Winter, fool's spring (we are here), second winter, spring of deception, third winter, mud season, actual spring, summer, false fall, second summer, and actual fall. Let me tell you a bit about what 4 County SBA has been up to this winter as we enter fool's spring.

Four County members spent a lot of time and energy getting ready to attend the Capitol Conference presented by NYSSBA. This is an opportunity to participate (in person!) in Lobby Day. Legislators we were able to have face time which included Senator Pam Helming, Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan, Assemblyman Brian Manktelow, Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, along with staff representing the offices of Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes and Senator Thomas O'Mara.

Topics of discussion were school aid, universal school meal programs, pre-kindergarten, mental health, staff shortages, administrative reporting requirements, charter schools, tobacco regulations, career and technical education, and the fund balance. Access to our position papers will soon be available on our website for Four County SBA members. The time and dedication it took to craft the collective voice of our component districts and deliver a unified message to our state representatives did not go unnoticed. Thank you to all who participated in bringing our voices to Albany.

Heading into March, there are some important house-keeping items to go over. Any Board of Education member from a Four County SBA member board may submit their name to any member of the Nominating Committee, prior to March 1st, if they would like their name added to the ballot along with the Nominating Committee's recommendation. The Board of Directors will adopt the ballot at their March 16th meeting. The results of voting will be announced at the annual meeting in May.

You may contact any member of the Nominating Committee or the Four County office with any questions or concerns.

Nominating Committee:

Chair Robin Johnson rjohnson@mwcsd.org (315) 534-2328
 Jim Sykes james.sykes@honeoye.org (585) 703-7095
 Linda Eygnor leygnor@nrwcs.org (315) 594-8300
 Julie Nevelizer julie.nevelizer@newarkcsd.org (315) 879-0611

A few upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, February 28th

Hybrid Professional Development Meeting

Caring About Culture

Leadership Strategies to Retain World-Class Educators

Matt Frahm, Ed.D., Superintendent, Clarence CSD

Saturday, March 4th

Prospective Board of Education Member Seminar

Open to the public, this seminar will give anyone interested in running for their Board of Education information on what board members do.

Friday, March 24th

Four County SBA First Annual Spring Conference

Meeting of the Minds

Top Level Experts on School Safety, Security, and Mental Health

It is my sincerest hope everyone enjoys the remainder of the school year as I know it too will fly by. Mud season and actual spring will be here before we know it, and soon after Spring Break, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, field days, senior activities, final exams, and graduation. Then our seniors will go off to make their mark on the world. Our advocacy for our students directly shapes the opportunities they have before them. It starts with pre-k and early intervention and goes all the way through to graduation. Thank you all for your time and dedication with the common goal of helping our students work towards bigger and brighter futures.

Warm Wishes -

Carrie Resch

Four County SBA 2ND Vice President
 Wayne Board of Education



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ARTISTS
ROC**

See some of what is offered on our website at;

<https://teachingartistsroc.com/>

For more information reach out to;

Gretchen Anthony (585) 328-2488

gretchen@teachingartistsroc.com



MESSAGES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I have nearly completed my goal of attending a school board meeting in each of our 21 component school districts; I recently visited the Canandaigua City School District and Williamson Central School District, and I am looking forward to visiting North Rose-Wolcott Central School District this month as well. I am really enjoying visiting our member districts and getting to know our area school board members better. Each and every one of the districts I have visited are justifiably quite proud of the good work being done on behalf of the children in their respective communities.

I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. at the end of January, to attend the Equity Symposium, provided by the National School Boards Association. The Symposium featured two keynote presentations, featuring Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, and Dr. Amy Price Anzano.

Dr. Hrabowski is a passionate advocate for Science and Technology for African American students. Dr. Price Anzano is the Founding Director of the Virginia Tech Center for Rural Education. Both presentations were very well done and quite interesting. The breakout sessions I was able to attend included the topics of electric school buses, greater equity and more effective K-16 partnerships, and the NNPS Tiered Emotional and Mental Supports (TEaMS) Program.

At our Professional Development Meeting on February 28, we look forward to a presentation by Dr. Matt Frahm, Superintendent of the Clarence Central School District. Dr. Frahm began his career in education at Geneseo Central school, where he served as a secondary social studies teacher before becoming the high school principal at Naples Central School. Dr. Frahm went on to serve as the Superintendent at Naples Central for 7 years, before becoming the Superintendent at Clarence Central School in August, 2021. Dr. Frahm completed his doctoral degree in Executive Leadership at St. John Fisher College. Focused on better understanding leadership behaviors that impact teacher retention, Dr. Frahm's dissertation research was published in a peer reviewed article for *The Rural Educator*. I hope you will be able to join us on the evening of February 28, for Dr. Frahm's presentation.

On March 24, The Four County School Boards Association, in collaboration with The Rural Schools Association, is excited to be offering our First Annual Spring Conference! The focus of this conference will be School Safety, Security, and Mental Health. We have a really dynamic group of presenters lined up for the day. Please contact Sue Wyatt, our Coordinator of Membership Services to register for the conference, which will take place at the Wayne-Finger Lakes Conference Center, from 8:00 am to 3:15 pm on March 24.

We are really excited about the presenters and their topics for this conference; please join us for this first of many Spring Conferences to be offered by the Four County School Boards Association.

Stephen P. Miskell, Ed.D.

Executive Director, Four County SBA



Business and STEM Education Partnerships

At our Professional Development meeting on January 31, Terry Hopkins, Administrative Principal at C&S Companies, offered a terrific presentation entitled "Business and STEM Education Partnerships." Terry's presentation described several ways that businesses such as C&S can support STEM Education and build partnerships in local communities. Terry began her presentation by providing an overview of C&S, and then shared some of the ways C&S supports STEM Education. C&S has been actively involved in the Society of Women Engineers, school robotics and STEM clubs, Science Fairs, and mentoring capstone projects.

C&S is very well positioned to support STEM Education, as they are a full-service construction management, engineering, and architecture firm. Terry and her colleagues at C&S love to strengthen career awareness for students by participating in career fairs, serving as classroom speakers, and by connecting with teachers, guidance counselors, and school administrators to support STEM Education in area school districts. C&S provides internship and shadow experiences for students considering careers STEM fields.

What I learned from Terry Hopkins' great presentation at our January Professional Development Meeting is that C&S has a great deal to offer to our member school districts, and they love opportunities to connect with our students and educators. If you would like to learn more about what C&S can do to support your STEM initiatives, please reach out to Terry Hopkins, Administrative Principal thopkins@cscos.com, Mike DiPerna, K-12 Department Manager mdiperna@cscos.com, or Sharon Sweeny, Business Development Representative sasweeney@cscos.com.

Thank you, C&S, for all you do in support of the Four County School Boards Association and the children attending our member school districts!

- Steve Miskell





MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Greetings, fellow school board members!

Late winter can be a pretty dull season for most of us. But for the 4 County Legislative Committee, it's one of the most exciting times of the year. Throughout the fall and winter, the committee has been gathering information from members like you about the needs and priorities in our school districts. We use this information to put together position papers that outline how we hope our government representatives can partner with us to support our students. Major themes this year included addressing staffing shortages, maintaining equitability and predictability in funding, and promoting mental health and wellness for students and staff. After lots of discussion, revision, and editing, the position papers are ready for their big day: Lobby Day. This year it took place on February 15. Four County Legislative Committee and NYSSBA members went to Albany to meet with senators and members of the assembly. We prepared talking points to share at each meeting and had great discussions with the folks who represent us: Senator Pam Helming, Assemblyman Brian Manktelow, and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, along with staff representing the offices of Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes and Senator Thomas O'Mara.

During these discussions with our Legislators, we learned how problems can be connected. For example, electric buses. The change toward electrification is not only happening in our schools but also our community: shifts in how we cook or heat our homes as well as transportation. Several Legislators pointed this out with this question to follow: "How is our electrical grid going to handle this?" Their answer is that the technology is not developed enough to do that yet. Common thought between us was we see some benefit to electrically run items, but only when the time is right. The Legislators we meet with on Lobby Day request further data to create a portfolio of our needs to share with their committees. This portfolio will be supplied by our Legislative Committee via follow up letters going out the next couple of months. Each letter will have a focused issue. Be on the lookout for emails from us asking for data from your district.

Education is such an important part of what New York State does, but for representatives, it's only one of many big issues on their plates. As school board members, education is our top priority. That's why Lobby Day can be so valuable – the chance to make a connection and remind representatives of the importance of what we do is also a chance to build bridges of understanding and

collaboration. We can advocate for what students need and talk about how to make it happen.

If these opportunities sound exciting and valuable to you, we'd love for you to join us at Legislative Committee meetings. These occur monthly on Saturday mornings over Zoom, and the next scheduled meeting will be March 11. We hope you can join in this advocacy process!

Emily Fisher

Geneva BOE



Julie Nevelizer

Newark BOE



Lobby Day - February 15, 2023



Left to right: Heather Zellers-Seneca Falls BOE and RSA Rep, Robert Neu-Dundee BOE, Julie Nevelizer-Newark BOE, Senator Pam Helming, Linda Eynor-North Rose-Wolcott BOE, Lynn Gay-Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES, and Anne Morgan-Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES





FOUR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Invites you to our
First Annual Spring Conference



Friday, March 24, 2023

Meeting of the Minds Top Level Experts on School Safety, Security, and Mental Health

Guests, Presenters, and Speakers:

David Little, Rural Schools Executive Director will Emcee the Day

David Budz, Retired FBI Special Agent

Susan Hasenauer, Superintendent, Newark CSD

Michael Pullen, Superintendent, North Rose-Wolcott CSD

SED - Dr. Jim Baldwin, Senior Deputy Commissioner

SED - Kathleen DeCataldo, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Student Support Services

SED - Alexander Trikalinos, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Teacher and Leader Development

Steve Chatterton, Director of Security, Greece CSD and Department of Homeland

Security Certified Threat Assessment Trainer

Julia Solan, LMSW, Newark CSD's K-12 Family Outreach and Community Schools Coordinator

Jose Otero - Director of Security Newark CSD

John Kelly, Coordinator of Safety and Security, WFL BOCES

Steve Zaferakis Director of Assessments at Armoured One LLC

Matthew Miraglia, President/CEO, CLPS Consultants - TAP App

Heather Harer, VP of Strategic Partnerships, Intra Logic Solutions



Steve Miskell and
Dr. Matthew Miraglia

Schedule:

Registration/Networking: 8:00-9:00 am

Continental Breakfast

Morning Sessions

Lunch Break: 12:15-1:15 pm

Afternoon Sessions

Dessert Break: 2:00 pm

Afternoon Sessions

Closing Remarks conclude at 3:15 pm

Location: Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Conference Center
131 Drumlin Court, Newark, NY 14513

Registration: \$50 Per Person

Please Register By Friday, March 10th *

*Cancellations made after March 10th will be Invoiced, and
No Shows will not be refunded

Register on line: www.fourcountysba.org

Or By Email: 4countysba@edutech.org

Vendors Sponsoring Booths Please register by email

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