

# NEWS NOTES

March  
2015



(315) 332-7294

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

## REGIONAL FORUMS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

### **RECLAIMING PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Friday, March 13, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Honeoye CSD Auditorium

**Speakers:** **Brian Kolb** (Assembly Minority Leader), **David Little** (Executive Director Rural School Association), **Scott Bischooping** (District Superintendent Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES) and **Sharon Sweeney** (Executive Director, Four County School Boards Association)

### **The Finger Lakes Community Forum**

Thursday, March 19, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Hobart & William Smith Albright Auditorium

**Speakers:** **Trina Newton** (Superintendent, Geneva CSD), **Kathy Guenther** (President, Four County School Boards Association/PennYan School Board Member) **Greg Lazarro** (Seneca County Board of Supervisors), **Scott Bischooping** (District Superintendent, WFL BOCES), **Amy Pauley** (FLCC Director of Development), **Kristina Knight** (Seneca Falls Parent)

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*President*

**Kathy Hart**  
*1st Vice President*

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

**Anne Morgan**  
*Immediate Past President*

**Bill Buchko**  
*Legislative Committee Chair*

**Beth Thomas**  
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**Chuck Rothfuss**  
*Appointed Representative*

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**Sarah Sarkar**  
*Administrative Assistant*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I think the grip of winter has loosed and we are now looking forward to spring time! Our winter was brutal, for sure, which kept every school district's maintenance staff busy making sure the buses were running and the pipes didn't freeze. Our hats off to them. To those of you who braved the snow and cold and made it to the March 3rd dinner and heard David Little talking about Advocacy—Thank you. Even I didn't make it to that one but I understand his program was a good one.

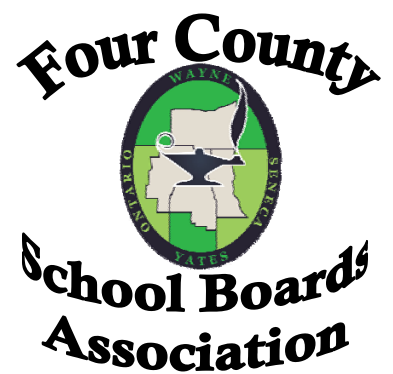
Only a couple more months and we will be facing graduation. There are still a lot of things to do. The Capital Conference in March, some will be attending the National Conference in Nashville and then our Annual Dinner in May.

It's been a great year despite the brutal winter and our never ending battle with the Governor regarding fair and equitable funding and the absence of State runs for our school districts to get our budgets ready, and his distrust for our teachers. We must stick together as a unit and continue to work for our children to provide them with the best possible educational experience to help them to be college and career ready.

**Kathy**

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## FROM YOUR AREA 2 DIRECTOR

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I am sure you are all knee deep in your budget planning. This year the governor has made our task more difficult by refusing to provide budget runs based on his executive budget proposal. From his State of the State address he has attacked public education at every turn. In the recent *OnBoard*, Tim Kremer's new game of suspense and intrigue *Cuomo-nopoly* definitely illustrated many of the dilemmas with which we are faced.

Clearly our push this year must be to make sure the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) goes away and stays away. Senator Patrick Gallivan and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner have co-sponsored a bill to do just that this year. Please be sure to thank them for their courage to push this issue. By the governor's own admission, he has single-handedly raised our State from the depths of despair and dysfunction to a place that now has a budget surplus. Well if that is true, then we all know there is no gap that needs eliminating any longer so he must stop adjusting school aid. Please encourage your legislators in both houses to support this bill. Please write the governor and tell him the GEA must go now!

The governor's education reform package has some items that are worthy of consideration and compromise. However, his attacks and demands will do little to attract talented young people to the education profession. The manner in which he is manipulating and threatening legislators and educators is disheartening, to say the least.

Our task is to keep ourselves informed at all times. To engage in discussions and development activities so we can make the best decisions for the children in our communities. We must advocate and communicate continually trumpeting our students' successes and the fiscally prudent ways that we, as School Board members, are protecting and enhancing the investment and trust our communities place in us and our schools. We need to raise our voices louder than the governor's voice to be heard over the noise in Albany. Our work as Board members is daunting but doable when we listen and work together.

I wish you well over the next few weeks as you finalize your budgets. Hopefully we will have some State Aid numbers to work with to help in that endeavor. To those of you who will be seeking re-election to your Board seats, I wish you well. I thank each and every one of you for your service to the children in your communities and the entire State. The rewards of our efforts and energies will ripple on the water of time for generations to come. Thank you.

*Rodney*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Torrey Park Grill

Avenue E (Across from the Club 86)

Geneva, New York

5:30 – registration & conversation      6:30 – dinner & meeting  
(We will come to order when all are present)

**Make sure your board is represented to adopt the 2015-16 budget and dues, accept the slate of officers from the Nominating Committee and engage in planning for 15-16 programs!**

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## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thanks to the Legislative Committee members who have dedicated their time and energy to the drafting of the 2014-15 Legislative Position Papers and establishing the advocacy calendar of events.

Under the able leadership of Committee Chair **Bill Buchko** (Gananda) and Vice-Chair **Beth Thomas** (Canandaigua) the group developed the State, Federal, and Regulatory papers. They met with area Assembly members **Bob Oaks** and **Phil Palmesano** and Senators **Mike Nozzolio** and **Tom O'Mara**.

The dedicated members of this group met in October to set their calendar and then for six Saturdays through the fall and winter.

In addition to Bill and Beth - thanks to the following members for getting up early on Saturday, providing delicious goodies, and lending their knowledge to the discussions: **Jim Hill** (Dundee), **Barb Roesch Rokow** (Geneva), **Phyllis Frantell** (Marcus Whitman), **Kathy Guenther** and **Robin Johnson** (Penn Yan), **Joe McNamara & Bill Reigel** (Seneca Falls), **David Dresser** and **Mary Church** (South Seneca), **Tim DeLucia** (Victor), **Lynn Gay** and **Terrie Meyn** (Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES).

## SENECA FALLS BOE HONORED WITH NYSSBE ADVOCACY AWARD

Each year the New York State School Boards Association honors individual board members and an entire board for their advocacy efforts throughout the year. The Board Award goes to **Seneca Falls** this year.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to: **Board President Joe McNamara**, **Board Vice President Melissa Baxter**, and **Board Members Christina Ganzon, Jeff Hartwell, Joell McMurney-Karston, Bill Reigel, Gregory Walsh, Peter Wormuth, and Heather Zellers**. Thanks for understanding the importance of being advocates for the children in your community and for public education.

Four County School Boards Association  
WELCOMES

**Steven Vigliotti**  
Superintendent  
North Rose-Wolcott Central School District

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## A SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

**Saturday, April 11, 2015**  
**8:30 a.m. Registration**  
**9:00 – 12:00 noon Program**

Jack Loveless Conference Room  
Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES Regional Center  
Newark, New York

Information has been sent to Board Clerks, Presidents,  
Superintendents, PTA Presidents, Local Libraries and the Media!

Registration encouraged but not required!

A free public service provided by Four County.

Encourage members of your community to attend to gain a better  
understanding of the role and responsibilities  
of their board of education

**SAVE THE DATE**

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## FCSBA ANNUAL MEETING

**Monday, May 18, 2015**

**5:30 p.m. – Registration/Conversation**  
**6:30 p.m. – Dinner/Student Performance**  
**7:45 p.m.– Business Meeting/Guest Speaker**

**The Belhurst Castle, Geneva, New York**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**PLAN TO ATTEND**

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## Presidents & Vice Presidents

### *PILOT* *Superintendents' Evaluation Process Training*

**Tuesday, April 28, 2015**  
**Phelps – Clifton Springs Board Room**  
**In the Primary Building**  
**(Furthest building from the entrance)**  
**1490 Route 488**

Presidents and Vice Presidents agreed to assist area superintendents (**Kathy Wegman**, Marion & **Dawn Santiago-Marullo**, Victor) who have worked with their Superintendents Council (NYSCOSS) to develop a model superintendents' evaluation process.

This event will pilot the training process for those boards who choose to adopt this process!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2014-2015

**FCSBA Board of Directors—April 16**

**Steering Committee—April 7**

**FCSBA Annual Meeting—May 18**

### **Other Spring Events:**

Albany Capital Conference—March 15-16

NSBA Annual Conference—March 20-23

Negotiators Breakfast—April 10

Prospective New Board Seminar—April 11

PILOT Superintendents Evaluation Training—April 28

New Board Member Orientation—June 16