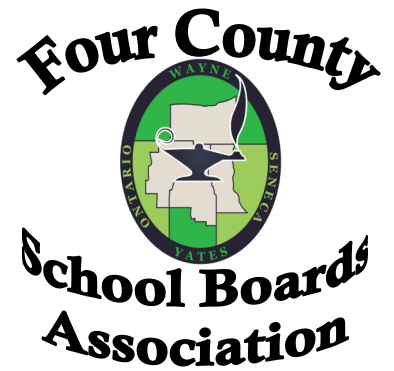


NEWS NOTES

August
2015



(315) 332-7294

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President

Beth Thomas
1st Vice President

Caroline Nevil
2nd Vice President

Kathy Guenther
*Immediate
Past President*

Bill Buchko
*Legislative
Committee Chair*

Chuck Rothfuss
*Appointed
Representative*

Jeanne Durfee
*Appointed
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**Sharon A.
Sweeney**
Executive Director

Sarah Sarkar
*Administrative
Assistant*

Coming Attraction!!

New School Board Member Training

Saturday September 12, 2015

7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

W-FL Regional Support Center
Newark, NY

Registration Deadline September 10, 2015

This orientation seminar has been approved by the SED.
A certificate of completion demonstrates
compliance with the six hour mandate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the new school year! As usual, summer has been a flurry of planning and training. Hope you've also found time to relax a bit, enjoy time with family and friends, and revel in the splendor of our beautiful Finger Lakes region.

Many thanks to all who completed the interest survey in June. The Steering Committee is using the survey data to plan programs and events for the coming year. The Steering Committee met with Regent Wade Norwood in June for a wide-ranging and very engaging conversation about the challenges we face in our Four County districts. We're scheduled to meet again with both Regent Norwood and Regent T. Andrew Brown in early September and we're working diligently to plan a General Membership Meeting with both of the Regents, and hopefully the new Commissioner, so that all of you can join this important conversation too.

At our Annual Meeting, 2013 NY Teacher of the Year Greg Ahlquist spoke about the importance of having a growth mindset and encouraging students and adults to fulfill their potential. Some local board members were truly inspired and decided to take Mr. Ahlquist's advice one step further this summer by reading Carol Dweck's Mindset: The New Psychology of Success. It's exciting to see turn-key practices in action!

Finally, at the New Board Member Get-Acquainted program in June, we discussed how the approach to decision making offered by the "Serenity Prayer" can be helpful to new (and experienced) board members - the courage to change those things which can be changed, the serenity to accept those things which cannot, and the wisdom to know the difference. I wish you all a year full of courage, serenity, and wisdom.

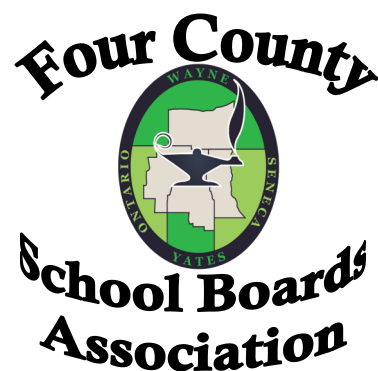
Many thanks to all for everything you do on behalf of the children. If Four County can assist you in any way, please let us know!

Best wishes for a wonderful year!

Kathy

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FROM YOUR AREA 2 DIRECTOR



I would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year. For those Board members who were newly elected, welcome to this most noble responsibility. Public education is the bedrock of our society and, in this State, strong Boards of Education is where outstanding schools begin. Thank you for agreeing to serve as a school board member.

I hope you have had the opportunity for some rest and relaxation this summer. The summer gives us the time to rejuvenate our energies so we can inspire those within our districts to commit themselves to the vital responsibility of educating our children. It is the leadership and inspiration of Board members like you that provide the opportunities for every child.

To continue your training and preparation for your role as a Board member, I encourage all school board members to attend NYSSBA's annual conference in New York City this year October 18 – 20. NYSSBA is your organization designed to assist all school board members in their training, advocacy, and mission of school leadership. Every Board member has the responsibility to remain current on issues so the best decisions can be made for the children. Attending the NYSSBA conference is also a great opportunity to network with other school board members and share ideas together. Registration is still open. I hope to see all of you in NYC.

Have a great year!

Rodney

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A Reminder –

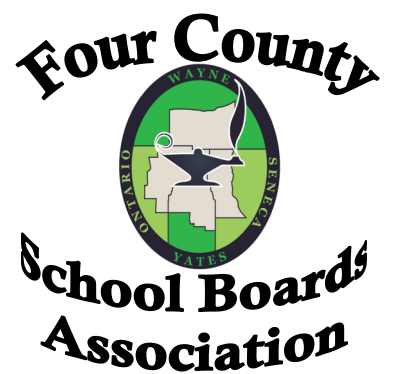
Four County is fortunate to have a number of business sponsors who generously support our programs and services.

As you move through the year, please remember to include them in any RFP process when you are seeking attorney firms, accountants, construction companies etc.

Let's be sure to give our sponsors a fair chance to compete, in appreciation for their ongoing support. In many cases it is not the board making the decision so please pass the information about these firms along to those who do.

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Welcome and Welcome Back

A Warm Four County Welcome to our newest board members:

Cheryl Birx– Canandaigua
Wendy Gibson-Dundee
Andrew Simmons-Dundee
Andrea Badger-Honeoye
Sandra Hubble– Honeoye
Eric DeTaeye– Newark
Linda Eygner– North Rose-Wolcott
Kim Skellie– Phelps-Clifton Springs
Amber Wilkes– Phelps-Clifton Springs
Michael Mirras– Seneca Falls
Jason Roscup– Sodus
Jim Sergeant–Sodus
Paul Kelly– South Seneca
Karen Ballard- Victor
Kerry Whitman– Wayne

Welcome Back to:

Renee Bloom– PennYan— served many years on that board in the past

Congratulations to:

Michael Ellis—Geneva—adds his election to the Geneva BOE to his service on the Wayne Finger-Lakes BOCES board.

Congratulations and welcome to newly appointed superintendent:

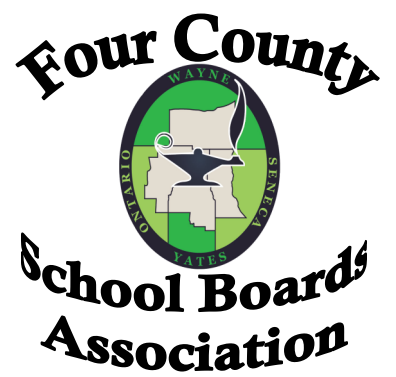
Dr. Mathis Calvin III— Wayne

PRESIDENT HART APPOINTES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Recently elected Gananda Board Vice President **Bill Buchko** will once again Chair the Four County Legislative Committee. Under his leadership during 2014-15 the group authored the State, Federal, and Regulatory position papers and undertook a number of advocacy activities. The Committee met on six early Saturday mornings to accomplish their work. At the group's request they also sponsored a program that explained the working of state aid to education in New York State. We look forward to Bill's enthusiasm and leadership for the coming year.

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FOUR COUNTY ANNUAL AUDIT TO BE COMPLETED

As in the past, the financial activity of the Association will be reviewed by the Internal Audit Committee.

Chairing this year's Committee is **Russ Harris** (Newark). Other members of the Committee are **Joe Delforte** (Canandaigua), **Ron Miller** (Wayne), and **Bill Reigel** (Seneca Falls).

Findings and recommendations will be reported to the Board of Directors at their meeting in September.

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.

General Membership—Oct. 6, Dec. 1, Feb. 2, Mar. 22

Board of Directors—Sept. 22, Dec. 1, Feb. 2, Mar. 22,
April 19

Legislative Committee—Oct. 6 (Organizational Meeting),
Feb. 2 (Joint BOD meeting), Saturday Workshops—TBA

New Board Governance Training—Sept. 12

Fiscal Training—Feb. 6

Annual Meeting—May 23

Other Fall Events:

NYSCOSS Conference—Sept. 27-29

NYSSBA Convention—Oct. 18-20