

NEWS NOTES

May
2015



(315) 332-7294

Web Site: www.4csba.org Email: 4countysba@edutech.org

FCSBA ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, May 18, 2015
The Belhurst Castle, Geneva, NY

5:30 p.m. – Registration & Social Time
6:30 p.m. – Dinner
7:45 p.m. – Business Meeting
8:00 p.m. – Guest Speaker

Greg Alquist

NYS Teacher of the Year 2013
“The Transformative Power of Belief”

Student Artwork by PennYan CSD
Student Musical Performance by Bloomfield CSD



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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
*Legislative
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Chuck Rothfuss
*Appointed
Representative*

Jeanne Durfee
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**Sharon A.
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Executive Director

Sarah Sarkar
*Administrative
Assistant*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

The school year is winding down. We have gotten through our Common Core exams and spring sports are in full swing. May is a busy, busy month. I look at my calendar and see music events, awards programs, lots of athletic events and time to vote on our 2015/16 Budgets. Whew!

I hope to see you at the Annual Dinner on May 18th at the Belhurst. Penn Yan's Art Department will be showcased and Bloomfield's Music Department will be performing.

It has been a year of the good, the bad and the ugly but I think we all made it through unscathed. I certainly have enjoyed my second year as President of 4CSBA. We surveyed our members to find out what programs you wanted and I think we fulfilled all of those requests. We have already received a lot of good feedback as we prepare for the coming year. Looks like more great programs are being planned.

Remember that 4CSBA is here to work for you and your district. We would not be possible without your membership. There is power in numbers!

Kathy

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FROM YOUR AREA 2 DIRECTOR

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I wish you all good fortune in the budget votes on May 19th. It has been a trying budget season with the governor withholding any district information until the “three men in the room” left the room. And then, to include policy changes within the budget adoption, I believe has created an unfortunate precedent that the governor will likely increase using in future years. On time budgets are appreciated only when they are meaningful and done properly. I do appreciate the efforts of our legislators in lobbying for additional State Aid. However, as my superintendent often states, “It is not an increase in aid, it is *less of a decrease* because money is still being taken back via the GEA.” We need to continue our lobbying efforts to eliminate the GEA and to have the Foundation Aid formula changed so that every district in the State is able to ensure that all children are provided a “sound, basic education”. The Foundation Formula must be constructed in a way so that all children have opportunities to be prepared to prosper in the global society. All children “regardless of their zip code” must be college and career ready.

Speaking of “college and career ready”, I also want us to maintain the focus on what the real issues are. I hear some people want to blame the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) for all the difficulties in our education system. It is not the CCLS; it is the way they are being tested and how the testing data is being used. The Learning Standards themselves are worthwhile; we should want to have our children better prepared for college and career. The fault is not the standards. The fault is with how the tests are developed and then how the results are used. Test “refusals” place our children in the middle of making adult statements. We should be lobbying Albany to not do away with the Standards but to change the tests. Assessments must be relevant, valid, and reliable. We must also keep the focus as to what “test scores” mean ... they are one piece of a series of multiple measures to guide our teachers’ instruction. Test scores may indicate which students need additional supports to meet exit outcomes ... they always have. Good teachers have always used how students perform on tests to inform their instruction, to understand what needs to be retaught, and to revise curricula. We need to refocus the discussion on what the problem really is. It is not the learning standards; it is the manner in which the standards are being tested and then how the results of the testing are being used.

As I said at the outset, have a successful budget vote and election of new Board members. Thank you for all you do every day for our children.

Rodney

SURVEY OF INTEREST FOR 2015 – 2016 PROGRAMMING

To assist with planning programs for 2015-2016, the Association will once again conduct a “topics of interest” survey of the membership. The on-line survey will be sent to all current members for completion in June. The survey conducted in June of 2014 was extremely helpful in choosing the focus for the four General Membership meetings held during the past year. **Please watch for the survey and take a few minutes to complete it.**

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SAVE THE DATE

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NEW AND NEARLY NEW GET ACQUAINTED EVENING

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

**Phelps-Clifton Springs CSD
1490 Route 488
Clifton Springs, NY
Board Conference Room
In the Primary School**

Registration & Conversation 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:15 p.m.

Program 6:30 p.m.

Invitations will be sent to all new members immediately following the election.

SLATE OF OFFICERS PROPOSED

The 2014-2015 Nominating Committee proposes the following Slate of Officers for 2015-2016:

President – Kathy Hart

(Member Victor BOE)

First Vice President – Beth Thomas

(Vice President Canandaigua BOE)

Second Vice President – Caroline Nevil

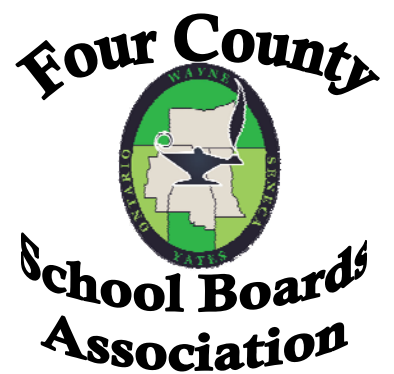
(Vice President Bloomfield BOE)

This slate will be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on May 18 at the Belhurst Castle in Geneva, NY. Nominations from the floor will also be considered.

The Nominating Committee was chaired by FCSBA Past President **Jeanne Durfee** (Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES BOE) with the following additional members: **Sheila Brown** (President Marcus Whitman BOE), **Michele Kuelling** (President Marion BOE), **Bill Reigel** (Member Seneca Falls BOE) and **Chuck Rothfuss** (Steering Committee and member Gananda BOE).

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NOTES FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

It's been a while since I was able to attend the National School Boards Association's Annual Convention and so I was really happy to make the trek to Nashville, Tennessee in March. As always, attendance at this national event was worth the investment of time and funds. In addition to the always welcome opportunity to network with colleagues, the exposure to speakers with special expertise and the national perspective offered some interesting, thought provoking insights. As one of only two Four County folks in attendance, I would like to share some of these with you. It is really too much for this newsletter space so I will be composing follow-up NOTES FROM NASHVILLE and sending them to you through our email connections.

As we come to the end of the 2014-2015 year, we would like to recognize and thank all those who have made this year one of the best.

THANK YOU TO THE FRIENDS OF FOUR COUNTY

Our business sponsors who provide generous financial support for programs and projects:

For Support of our Facts and Figures:

Ashley McGraw

The Bonadio Group

C & S Companies

Campus Construction Management

Clark Patterson Lee

Club 86 Party House

Ferrara, Fiorenza, Larrison, Barrett & Reitz, PC.

Finger Lakes Community College

H & R Block – Integrity Tax Services

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Harter Secrest & Emery, LLP

Hunt Engineers Architects and Surveyors

LaBella Associates, DPC

Leonard Bus Sales, Inc.

Moore Printing Co, Inc.

New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal (NYSIR)

Reliant Community Credit Union

St. John Fisher College

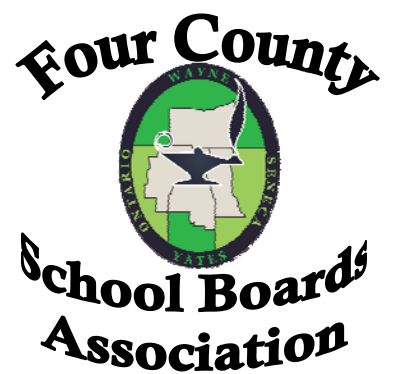
Turner Construction

Raymond F Wager, CPA PC

Wegmans

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NOTES FROM YOUR DIRECTOR (cont.)

A special thanks to **C&S Companies** and **Hunt Engineers, Architects & Surveyors** for their additional support of the Upstate/Downstate Hospitality Suite and the 2015 Annual Meeting

Our program presenters who shared their knowledge and experience:

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM PRESENTERS

Dr. John Sipple – Director Center For Rural Schools, Cornell University

Mr. Tim Kremer – Executive Director NYSSBA

Dr. Steve Uebbing – Professor, Warner School University of Rochester

Ms. Melanie McGuire —Director of Special Programs, Victor CSD

Ms. Sarah Cupelli—Assistant Principal, Geneva CSD

Ms. Kelly Van Laeken—Principal, Gananda CSD

Mr. David Little – Executive Director, Rural Schools Association of New York

FACULTY FOR OUR NEW BOARD ORIENTATION

Kathy Guenther (President FCSBA, Penn Yan BOE)

Marla Iverson (Assistant Superintendent for School Improvement, WFL BOCES)

Barb Schoonerman (Marion CSD Board Clerk)

Mike Midey (Superintendent, Bloomfield CSD)

Scott Bischooping (District Superintendent, WFL BOCES)

Don Budmen (Ferrara, Fiorenza, Larrison, Barrett & Reitz)

Sharon Sweeney (Executive Director, FCSBA)

FACULTY FOR OUR FISCAL TRAINING

Kathy Guenther (President FCSBA, Penn Yan BOE)

Bob Magin (North Rose-Wolcott Business Official)

A special thanks for doing double duty!

Kathie Barrett (CPA, Freed, Maxick & Battaglia, CPAs, PC)

Thomas Zuber (CPA, Raymond Wager, CPA, PC)

Sharon Sweeney (Executive Director, FCSBA)

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PANEL FOR PROSPECTIVE BOARD MEMBER SEMINAR

Kathy Guenther (FCSBA President/Penn Yan BOE)

Phyllis Frantel (Marcus Whitman BOE)

Beth Thomas (FCSBA Legislative Vice-Chair,
Canandaigua BOE)

Bill Buchko (FCSBA Legislative Chair, Gananda BOE)

David Bills (Superintendent Honeoye CSD)

Heather Cole (Attorney, Ferrara, Fiorenza, Larrison,
Barrett & Reitz)

OTHER EVENTS

Brian Fessler and **Julie Marlette** – NYSSBA
Governmental Relations Representative and Director -
State Aid Workshop

Jucinda Conboy (NYSCOSS General Counsel) **Dawn
Santiago Marullo** (Victor Superintendent) and **Kathy
Wegman** (Superintendent Marion CSD - Pilot
Superintendent Evaluation Training facilitators)

Greg Ahlquist – (Teacher Webster CSD & NYS Teacher
of the Year 2013) – Annual Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2014-2015

Membership Committee Meeting—May 13
FCSBA Annual Meeting—May 18
New Board Get Acquainted Evening—June 16
Steering Committee Meeting—TBA

Other Upcoming Events:

Superintendent Evaluation Webinar—May 13
Budget Votes/Board Elections—May 19
NYSSBA Summer Law Conference—July 9
Rural Schools Conference—July 12-14