

COUNCILGRAM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

"Balanced" Budget Passes

There is Much Ado About Something

Just 45 days late, the Legislature passed the \$89.6 billion 2002-03 state budget. Notwithstanding the state's precarious fiscal position, as with last year's budget, over \$500 million is available for "member-item" spending — the small grants in aid that are directed solely at the discretion of individual legislators or the Governor.

Arguing for their economic development impact in this fleeting recovery, the Executive was able to preserve tax cuts totaling nearly \$1 billion over 3 years, and the Legislature managed to add \$420 million in new school aid. However, to afford these spending decisions, the Governor and Legislature agreed to raid nearly all of the state's fund balances, borrow from dedicated funds, and appropriate unclaimed property belonging to NYS residents. In addition, they enacted increases in fees for everything from hunting licenses to cell phones (spanning the range of personal technology!). Finally, they upped their estimates of the state's economic growth next year to 3.8%, despite losing \$8 billion in tax receipts as a result of the 9/11 attacks.

All told, these non-recurring revenues total between \$2 and \$4 billion, depending on whether it's the state or a watchdog group that is doing the counting, raising concerns about how some 10% of the state's general fund revenue will be replaced next year — in a non-election year.

The election year budget nevertheless has something for everyone. The increased spending in education is welcome, even as the tenuousness of the state's finances

should leave districts wary as to whether this level of state spending can be maintained. Public employee unions secured an early retirement incentive as well as a new "55/25" initiative that would allow employees aged 55 with 25 years of service to retire without penalty. TRS estimates some 1,000 of their employees would be eligible. The member-item money will allow legislators running in

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substantially redrawn districts to introduce themselves to their new constituents, and a gimmick to allow

the Big 5 districts to borrow against funds they're already owed will provide a one-shot revenue against the cost of a 15% settlement of the UFT contract in NYC.

The State Education Department is looking at ways of identifying districts approaching financial trouble in advance of needing a state bailout as has happened to several districts recently. Indicators the State are looking at include: expenditures that exceed revenues, large appropriations from fund balance, excessive use of borrowing, and using the proceeds of borrowing to fund operating expenses. Sounds eerily like the first 4 paragraphs of this month's state news, and is reminiscent of the last 3rd term gubernatorial election in a down economy back in 1990.

Speaking of 1990, several school districts are currently being investi-



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NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

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Continued from page 1

gated by the Federal Department of Justice for potential problems with Medicaid claiming going back to 1990. The investigations are not prompted by allegations of fraud, but rather concern that state guidelines did not parallel the federal statute and therefore any district that followed the state guidelines could be in jeopardy. Senator Schumer has held several press conferences on this issue because the outside exposure to schools could total as much as \$2 billion. NYSCOSS, ASBO and NYSSBA are working jointly with the Senator and with appropriate NYS officials to attempt to resolve this issue.

Mayoral control of New York

City governance has hit a snag over the issue of who will appoint the community school superintendents. The Mayor wants to circumvent the Chancellor and appointment superintendents directly, micromanaging the system and second-guessing the Chancellor even though s/he too would be Mayorally-appointed. It defies sound management practice to invest hiring and firing decisions at a different level from where evaluations take place, and will ultimately make superintendents City employees and lead to the involvement of every community superintendent in Mayoral/Council politics.

Info Sent Directly to You *Bulletins Available Via E-mail*

NYSCOSS Deputy Executive Director, Thomas Rogers, has kept superintendents informed of budget developments throughout this year's process by sending bulletins to

superintendents on the NYSCOSS e-mail list.

If you are interested in being added to the list, send an e-mail to Tom at tom@nyscoss.org.

Ken Harris Authors Book *Questions Standardization Practices*

Ken Harris, retired superintendent of Monroe I BOCES, has published a book entitled *Aspirations Cannot Be Standardized*.

Ken's thesis is that standardization does not take into account the basic principles of learning, does not support the creative art of teaching, does not

allow for creative improvements in public education and does not provide assessments that properly celebrate students' myriad personal accomplishments.

Ken currently serves on the Board at Fairport CSD. He can be reached at 10 Bradford Hill Road, Fairport, NY 14450 or at kharris3000@aol.com.

Legislative Insider Joins NYSCOSS Staff

Robert Lowry brings experience with Legislature, Governor, NYSUT

The Council welcomes to its staff a veteran of NYSUT and the state legislature. Robert N. Lowry, Jr. brings more than 20 years of experience in governmental educational policy to his new role of Associate Director for NYSCOSS.

For the last five years, Bob has worked at New York State United Teachers. As Manager of School Finance and Policy Development for the Division of Research and Educational Services, he has analyzed school district budgets and state aid. He has also done policy analysis on state and school finances and represented the union on SED advisory committees.

Earlier, Bob served several years as the Principal Legislative Budget Analyst for the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. In that capacity, he was the chief Assembly strategist and negotiator in annual deliberations over state aid to schools. He also helped draft and negotiate legislation to restructure pre-school special education and school aid payment schedules. In addition, Bob coordinated Assembly staff in developing school tax relief and accountability measures.

Before coming to the Assembly, Bob was Assistant Secretary to Governor Cuomo for Education and Arts from 1991 to 1994.

He advised the Executive on all education issues and led the Governor's staff in developing the Twenty-First Century Schools initiative.

Previously, Bob served several posts in the Assembly, playing key roles on important educational initiatives.

Bob graduated from the SUNY at Buffalo with a Bachelor's Degree in political science and from The University at Albany with a Master's of Public Administration.

The Council is proud to welcome Bob aboard. His knowledge and expertise should make our legislative advocacy program more effective than ever.

Middle School Summit

Council Seeks Greater Program Evaluation

Council representatives have urged SED to broaden its analysis of middle school performance. Walter Sullivan, Superintendent of Skaneateles CSD, and Marcia Schwarz, Assistant Superintendent of Sullivan BOCES, attended the Middle School Summit.

Afterward Dr. Sullivan wrote to Roseanne DeFabio, SED Assistant Commissioner for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, stating that he and Dr. Schwarz "were dismayed that the issues related to science and social studies grade 8 were simply presented as one of reporting or not reporting to the public."

Dr. Sullivan, Chair of the NYSCOSS Curriculum Committee, urged the summit to support the concept of program evaluation using heterogeneous samples of 8th graders. This, he

said, would provide the state with information on how students were performing and alleviate the testing burden for many students.

Council Names Officers for '02-'03

The NYSCOSS Nominating Committee has announced the new slate of officers to be inducted at the Fall Conference Annual Banquet on Monday, October 7, 2002 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Officers for 2002-03 will be:

President David A. Paciencia Taconic Hills
President-Elect James N. Mills Silver Creek
Vice-President William J. Brosnan Northport-E. Northport
Treasurer Marilyn O. Pirkle Rondout Valley
Past-President William H. Johnson Rockville Centre

NY TALKS

Program Offers Broad Tech Training

For schools and school leaders, technology is no longer just an option, no longer just a computer lab, and no longer a way to simply automate old procedures. Students, their future employers, and school communities expect schools to graduate students ready to work in today's advanced world.

NY TALKS, a new training program to from July 28 to 30 in Syracuse and Brooklyn, is the most affordable, flexible and complete resource **superintendents and building principals** will find to move schools and students into this modern era.

The generous support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation makes the program possible. For a tuition fee of \$295—the cost of a typical one-day workshop—NY TALKS provides a three-day orientation session (Phase I) and six regional learning experiences (Phase II) coordinated through local Leadership Academies.

Plus, participants receive:

- A PDA loaded with software for school leaders (with training on how to use it);
- A three-day orientation session featuring keynoters Michael Fullan, Alan November, and Ian Jukes;

- Additional workshops at the orientation session covering student management, e-learning packages, technical and legal issues of technology, decision-making support systems, creatively funding technology, information security, and more;
- Access to a website to support work during NY TALKS and after.

NY TALKS provides a blueprint for a practical and powerful action plan to help school leaders manage their workload and bring their school and students to higher levels of achievement.

To register, visit www.nytalks.org.

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Cable in the Classroom Seeks Advisors

Tech-Savvy Educators Needed to Guide Program

Cable in the Classroom is seeking 10 media- and technology-savvy educators to work as advisors and consultants. The cable initiative needs educators' insights about trends and issues in education and technology.

Teacher/advisors will be paid a \$4,000 annual stipend, and their schools will each receive \$1,000.

The consultants will take part in a limited number of conference calls, participate in online collaborations, consult and collaborate on limited-duration

projects, and spend 2 to 3 days out of the classroom at meetings or conferences.

Application deadline is July 1, 2002. The online application can be found at www.ciconline.org.

Talk Eyes Superintendency, Preparation

Raymond O'Connell Addresses CASDA Luncheon

The Capital Area School Development Association invites local retirees and other educational administrators to its final luncheon of the year Wednesday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cen-

tury House in Latham.

Dr. Raymond O'Connell, Director of Leadership, Research and Development at The University of Albany and CASDA, will speak on "A Snapshot of the

Superintendency and Administrative Preparation."

To make reservations, call CASDA at (518) 525-2680 by May 31.

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Superintendencies

ADIRONDACK CSD

Charles H. Bohlen, Jr., District Supt. \$88,000-\$100,000
 Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Enr: 1,693
 20104 State Route 3 Reply by:
 Watertown, NY 13601 6/29/02

EDMESTON CSD

Marie Warchol, District Supt. \$85,000-\$95,000
 Otsego-Northern Catskills BOCES Enr: 600
 Frank W. Cyr Center Reply by:
 Stamford, NY 12167 7/1/02

ELLICOTTVILLE CSD

Robert Olczak, District Supt. \$90,000-\$100,000
 Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming BOCES Enr: 770
 1825 Windfall Road Reply by:
 Olean, NY 14760-9299 5/28/02

FREDONIA CSD

Richard G. Timbs, District Supt. \$115,000-\$125,000
 Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES Enr: 1,950
 8685 Erie Road Reply by:
 Angola, NY 14006 8/9/02

MOHAWK CSD

Doug Johnson \$85,000-\$95,000
 NYS School Boards Association Enr: 1,045
 24 Central Hill Drive Reply by:
 Latham, NY 12110 6/21/02

NEWFANE CSD

Mrs. Carole Kolbe, District Clerk \$Competitive
 Newfane CSD Enr: 2,200
 6048 Godfrey Road Reply by:
 Burt, NY 14028 5/28/02

OSWEGO BOCES

Charles H. Bohlen, District Supt. \$120,000
 Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Enr: N/A
 20104 NYS Route 3 Reply by:
 Watertown, NY 13601 6/14/02

VALLEY CENTRAL AT MONTGOMERY

Robert Hanna, District Supt. \$110,000-\$125,000
 Orange-Ulster BOCES Enr: 5,100
 53 Gibson Road Reply by:
 Goshen, NY 10924-9777 6/7/02

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GALWAY CSD

Gerald Carozza, District Supt. \$110,000-\$120,000
 Wash.-Saratoga-Warren-Ham.-Essex BOCES Enr: 1,250
 10 La Crosse Street Reply by:
 Hudson Falls, NY 12839-1415 8/1/02

GENESEE VALLEY BOCES

Lorry Whipple Mid \$120,000s
 Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Enr: N/A
 Eisenhower Building, 131 Drumlin Ct. Reply by:
 Newark, NY 14513-1862 7/10/02

GLOVERSVILLE CITY SD

Geoffrey H. Davis, District Supt. \$100,000
 Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES Enr: 3,144
 25 West Main Street, Suite One Reply by:
 Johnstown, NY 12095 7/12/02

GRAND ISLAND CSD

Vincent Coppola \$115,000-\$125,000
 Western NY Educational Service Council Enr: 3,200
 SUNY at Buffalo Reply by:
 Baldy Hall, Room 222 8/9/02
 Buffalo, NY 14620-1000

HOLLAND PATENT CSD

William Silky/Suzanne Gilmour \$95,000-\$120,000
 Castallo & Silky Consultants Enr: 1,900
 P.O. Box 100 Reply by:
 Syracuse, NY 13215 5/24/02

Other NYS Administrative Positions (Contact District For Further Information)

Executive Principal - Career and Technical Education:
 Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 5/31/02.
 \$Competitive BOE.

Assistant Superintendent /Personnel Services:
 Frontier CSD. Enr: N/A. By: 5/31/02. \$Competitive.

Director for Curriculum, Standards and Elementary
 Education: Saratoga Springs City School District.
 Enr: 7,000. By 5/24/02. \$90,000-\$100,000.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction: Berkshire
 UFSD. Enr: 300 (7-12). By: 6/15/02. \$82,000-\$87,000.

Middle School Principal: Shenendehowa CSD.
 Enr: 9,100. By: 6/1/02. \$Competitive.

Foreign Language Supervisor: Shenendehowa CSD.
 Enr: 9,100. By: 6/1/02. \$Competitive.

High School Principal: Newark CSD. Enr: 900 (HS).
 By: 6/28/02. \$75,000-\$90,000.

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management
 Services: Monroe-Woodbury CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP.
 \$115,000.

Out-of-State Opportunities (Contact NYSCOSS For Further Information)

Superintendent: Mainland Regional High School District, NJ. Enr: 1,450. By: 7/1/02. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: Ridgewood SD, Bergen County, IL. Enr: 5,200. By: 7/1/02. \$Highly competitive.

Superintendent: Smyth County School Division, Southwestern Virginia. Enr: 5,100. By: 9/24/02. Not less than \$90,000.

Superintendent: Franklin School District, Franklin, Massachusetts. Enr: 2,700. By: 6/12/02. \$110,000-\$125,000.

Superintendent: Weathersfield School District, Weathersfield, CT. Enr: N/A. By: 6/21/02. \$110,000-\$125,000.

Retirements

Peter Bowers Galway, 1/1/03

Paul Fields Grand Island, 6/30/02

James Polunci Edmeston, 12/30/02

Robert L. Smith Dolgeville, 6/30/02

Chief School Officer Appointments

William C. Berg Andover CSD, 4/8/02
From Gowanda CSD

Stephen A. Bocciolatt Westhill CSD, 7/1/02
From Randolph CSD

Sharon Colpoys Dolgeville CSD, 7/1/02
From High School Principal at Dolgeville

James Coon Union-Endicott CSD, 7/1/02
From Fredonia CSD

Mary Beth Fiore Elmira Heights CSD, 7/15/02
From High School Principal at Port Byron CSD

Carol Franks-Randall Elmsford CSD, 7/1/02
From Assistant Superintendent/Principal at Bedford

Gerard Gretzinger A., Kingston City, 4/1/02

Neil Lederer Lindenhurst CSD, 7/1/02
From Senior High School Principal at Lindenhurst

Janie L. Nusser So. Seneca CSD, 7/1/02
From Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

John Riedl Margaretville CSD, 3/4/02
From Building Principal at Walton CSD

Robert Service Lansing CSD, 7/1/02
From Mohawk CSD

Lawrence J. Zacher I., Gowanda CSD, 4/1/02

A. = Acting I. = Interim

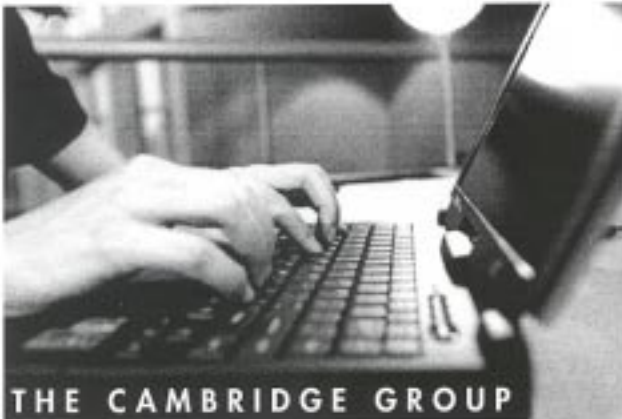


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To get your information in *The Councilgram*, send it to NYSCOSS, 7 Elk Street, Third Floor, Albany, NY 12207,
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 or e-mail tina@nyscoss.org



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- SPS is designed to integrate planning and performance throughout the entire school district.
- SPS will make it possible for a school to develop a single plan that meets the requirements of all external agencies.
- SPS will equip the local school to develop a plan that exceeds all state, national, and accreditation standards for student achievement.
- SPS will allow the district to track, monitor, and report every aspect of its performance and strategically deploy resources to areas of critical need.
- SPS will enable each school to respond to the specific need and aspirations of all students.
- SPS provides the district and each school with the capability of translating the district and school plans into specific job responsibilities and objectives for all staff.



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Cimarron

IDEA Advocacy Needed Now

Time is Right to Catch Lawmakers in Home Districts

AASA urges members to make appointments with their Senators and Representatives during their district work period from May 25 to June 2. The organization is pushing for mandatory full funding of IDEA, and focusing on paperwork, discipline and due process issues.

Once members have set a date to meet with legislators, they can gather

statistics to demonstrate how they have had to use regular education funds to subsidize special ed costs, how much time is consumed by paperwork, and how much money is consumed by legal fees for presentation at the meeting.

Local sessions on members' home turf will be invaluable in AASA's fight to achieve a well-funded and better IDEA.

Rural and Small Schools Conference

Features Orioles-Mariners Game

Online registration is now available for the 2002 Rural and Small Schools Conference in Baltimore, MD July 14-17, 2002. Go to www.aasa.org/conferences/rural/.

Keynote speakers include Jim Burgett, Superintendent of Highland Community Unit #5, speaking on "Effective Administrator Categories", and John Kuglin, Vice President for Education and Training with Com Choice Corporation, addressing "Technology: The Next Generation and Discovering New

Frontiers".

On Monday night, all conference participants will head to Camden Yards to watch the Baltimore Orioles take on the Seattle Mariners. Each primary registrant will receive one ticket. A limited number of additional tickets are available for family members. Tickets will not be sold on-site, so register early if you want additional tickets.

For more information call Mary Conk at (703) 875-0733.

AASA Supports Asthma Awareness

May is Asthma and Allergy Month, and this year's theme is "Communities Working for Life and Breath."

AASA is involved in air quality and asthma education. For more informa-

tion, contact Tenile Brown, project manager, AASA, 1801 N. Moore Street, Arlington, VA 22209, (701) 875-0759, tbrown@aasa.org.

Delegates Sought for AASA Assembly

NYSCOSS invites members to apply to serve as delegates for the 2003 AASA Delegate Assembly. Delegates help shape AASA advocacy for the coming year.

New York State is allotted 6 delegates, based on the number of AASA members hailing from New York.

Anyone interested in serving is asked to call the Council, (518) 449-1063.

Retiree Works in War-Torn Gaza Strip

McStay Endures Mideast Violence

Retired Superintendent Noel McStay came home to East Hampton in February after a seven-month working visit to Gaza City.

Noel, 62, worked as Assistant Principal at the American International School in Gaza City. He initially applied online for a position at the International

School in Cairo. Since he had no international experience, he was instead offered a position at the Gaza City school, which he accepted.

The school's science room was blown up last November by shelling from Israeli tanks. Apparently, the Israeli Army mistakenly believed Palestinian

terrorists had taken shelter in the school. Otherwise, Noel's stay was relatively peaceful.

Though he is of Irish and German descent, Noel remains interested in working in Gaza. If the school's principal retires in June, he plans to return and take her place, on a two-year contract.

Vouchers Proposed for IDEA

Dubious Florida Program Suggested for Nation

10

Voucher advocates are touting a Florida voucher program specifically designed for the parents of children with disabilities. AASA is resisting efforts to spread this program nationwide through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The "McKay Voucher" gives the equivalent of the local district's per-student special education state grant—an average \$6,860—to the private school

chosen by a parent, "who is dissatisfied with [their child's] progress" under the child's IEP in a public school. The money comes out of funds that would have gone to the local district for that student's education.

Under McKay, the private school, which may be a religious school, faces little to no regulation for eligibility and is "academically accountable to the parent" only. Nothing prevents the parent-chosen private school

from rejecting any child for any reason.

Even if it does participate, the private/religious school need not concern itself with "federal civil rights laws, including Section 504...and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act," which "do not directly apply, as the private schools are not public entities," according to the U.S. Department of Education's Civil Rights office.

USA Today Seeks to Honor Teachers

Nominations Sought for All-USA Teacher Team

U*SA Today* is accepting nominations for its fifth All-USA Teacher Team. The annual recognition program honors 20 teachers as representatives of all outstanding educators.

The winners will be featured in the October, 2002 issue of *USA Today*, and they will receive \$2,500 for their schools. Teachers may be nominated by anyone willing to describe their accomplishments in writing. Nominees

must have at least four years of teaching experience.

Nominations are due June 29. For more information and a nomination form, go to www.allstars.usatoday.com.

Wellness & Leadership

*Paul V. Fiacco, former Superintendent, Gloversville CSD
Wellness Committee Member*

I was introduced to holistic health at the “Lakeside” wellness retreat, sponsored by SED’s Statewide Advocacy for School Health Services Center.

SASH identified 5 components of wellness:

- u Social—interacting harmoniously with people and the earth;
- u Physical—taking care of one’s body;
- u Intellectual—using available resources to expand knowledge, improve skills;
- u Emotional—experiencing life’s ups and downs with enthusiasm and grace, and maintaining satisfying relationships with others; and
- u Spiritual—appreciating the meaning of life, being at peace with one’s place in the universe, and having a set of beliefs and values that give purpose to life.

Prescriptive health techniques focus on a single wellness component, such as exercise, diet or meditation. The holistic approach is not in opposition to prescriptive strategies; either may be appropriate, depending on the circumstances.

However, prescriptive strategies are not sufficient. Only when all five components are cultivated and in balance can the mind, body and spirit be integrated.

A key concept in holistic health is the “anchor” component: a particular dimension that helps bring the other components into focus. For some, the anchor component is the physical dimension, and for others it is the spiritual, and so on.

For more information on this topic please contact Paul Fiacco at 132 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078, (518) 773-3660, pfiacco@hotmail.com.

District Dispatches Volunteers to Explain Budget

In a challenging budget year, the Owego-Apalachin district is taking a proactive measure to boost public understanding of the school budget and the budget process, Superintendent **Edward Reid** reports.

The district created a team of volunteers to meet with taxpayers and explain the nuances of the

budget and the challenges the district faces. Members of the group made themselves available to answer residents’ questions and also attended two public hearings on the budget.

Ed hopes the district’s active approach to public information will be adopted by other districts and even municipalities.

Respected Educators Bishop and Nephew Pass Away

Charles T. Nephew, 66, superintendent of schools in Southold UFSD from 1983 until his retirement in 1991, died Tuesday, April 16 in Aiken, SC.

Charlie is remembered by his staff and community as a man who always put children first. He served in the US Army before embarking on his career as an educator. Before his superintendency in Southold, Dr. Nephew served 10 years as superintendent of schools in Walton, NY.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Alice Klispie

Nephew, of South Carolina; a son, Daniel of Boston, Mass; a brother John, of Plattsburgh; and a sister Katheryn Chasse of Williamsburg, VA.

In Memoriam

John Bishop, a former superintendent and SED official, died in April. John served as Superintendent of Gilboa-Conesville in the 1960s, before going to SED, where he became a high-level financial advisor.

Most recently he ran an H&R Block tax office in the South.

CALENDAR

2002

Dimensions of Leadership
May 31 Three Sites

Dimensions of Leadership
June 7 Four Sites

Harvard Academy
July 21-24 Cambridge, MA

New Superintendents' Program
August 25-26 Albany

Fall Conference
October 6-8 Rochester

Mid-Winter Conference
January 12-13, 2003

Membership Renewal Notice

Members are reminded that, as you complete your annual membership information cards, dues are computed using .0080 of annual salary.



Today's Students:
Tomorrow's Leaders

Fall Conference

2002

