

COUNCILGRAM

Unsettled Times in Albany *Legislative Session Straggles Toward a Close*

The State Legislature has found it impossible to hold to its original June 20 end date for the regular 2002 session. The Assembly returned for two days during the week of June 24 and the Senate followed suit with a one-day session on July 2. Still, they are not done. Observers anticipate another return to Albany in late July or early August—if final agreements can be reached on a number of high-profile issues that have so far proved elusive.

To date, the 2002 session has received mixed grades. The state budget was adopted “only” 45 days late. Major legislation was enacted to fund health care, to overhaul New York City school governance, and to redraw Legislative and Congressional district boundaries.

Big issues that remain unresolved but still under consideration include reform of the Rockefeller era drug laws, an increase in the state minimum wage, new restrictions on smoking in restaurants, anti-discrimination protection for gay men and lesbians, funding for the environmental clean-up Superfund, and a requirement for ministers to report suspected child abuse.

As the Senate was preparing to reassemble for its July 2nd session, reports circulated that about 15 key issues would be tackled. Disappointingly, the major item remaining for the Council—lifting the cap on BOCES district superintendent salaries—was not on the list and was not addressed. Still, hope

persists. Both houses did pass bills that are identical in effect and the topic remains under discussion within the Capitol.

At this writing, a number of significant education bills that passed both houses are awaiting action by the Governor. Those supported by the Council include proposals to authorize increases in allowable fund balances and to give districts more time to comply with new mandates for defibrillators in schools and safety devices on gym partitions.

Among those opposed by the Council are bills to give the “active teacher” members on the state Teachers Retirement System board an effective veto in decision making and to authorize property tax reductions for railroads.

The former bill would require that regulatory actions affecting TRS benefits have the support of at least one of the three active teacher representatives on the TRS board. If signed, the bill would relegate the retiree, administrator and public representatives to second-class status.

The railroad legislation was initially supported by some in the education community as a vehicle to dispel clouds of uncertainty hanging over many districts—until the railroads revealed that they would not halt their efforts to have past assessments lowered. The railroads are suing in federal court, alleging over-assessment.



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Budget Outlook for 2003-04 *State Plan Relies on One-Shots*

Adding to Albany's unsettled atmosphere is the outlook for next year's state budget. The Council's analysis noted that this year's budget relies on \$4 billion in non-recurring savings or revenues to achieve balance. Revenue growth—or spending cuts—of roughly 10% would be required simply to make up these “one-shots” in next year's budget, before accommodating any new spending. This point was echoed in State Comptroller H. Carl McCall's recently released analysis of the enacted budget and in a review by the Citizen's Budget Commission, a respected private, non-partisan watchdog group.

CBC gave the budget a grade of D, with F's in the categories of “promoting trust” and “budgeting responsibly.” The budget was probably saved from an overall grade of F by a C score for tax policy, based chiefly on success in lowering state tax burdens since 1995. CBC warned of the prospect of mid-year cuts *this year*, “...unless the state economy rebounds with highly unusual strength.”

Testing, Testing

Alarm over Regents physics exam results was prevalent in late June/early July, drawing attention from newspapers across the state. In the end, the State Education Department decided against revising the scoring scale, concluding that the test was fair.

However, the Department noted that a partial review of results suggested that the failure rate climbed by about 20 percentage points from a year ago and agreed to offer an additional opportunity for students to take the test this summer. Some observers complained that, whether the scoring was fair or not, the Department had made dramatic changes in the exam and had not given districts sufficient guidance or time to accommodate the changes in instruction. The Department also found it necessary to address problems in the Regents chemistry exam, slightly revising the scoring for that test.

The physics and chemistry controversies followed quickly on the heels of last month's revelation that Department staff had been revising literary passages included in Regents English exams. These controversies may have fueled announcements by the Senate and Assembly education chairs that their committees would conduct joint hearings in the fall on the implementation of higher standards and graduation requirements. One specific focus will be whether fears of rising dropout rates have materialized with the extension of high-stakes testing. The hearings may signal the Legislature's frustration with the current regimen of exam requirements, and a potential for wider involvement on their part.

Campaign for Fiscal Equity Fall-Out

Appellate Decision Decried Across the State

On June 25th, the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court in Manhattan overturned last year's lower court ruling in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity school finance lawsuit. The Appellate Division found that the state's system of education finance is constitutional, concluding, in part, that assuring an 8th or 9th grade education is good enough to satisfy requirements for a sound basic education.

The Council's summary and analysis (available on the NYSCOSS website) noted that, whatever one's apprehensions about seeing the system thrown out by judicial action, this conclusion is discouraging, as is the court's perfunctory dismissal of the role of resources such as qualified teachers, reasonable class sizes, and up-to-date books in assuring the promise of a sound basic education.

Governor Pataki welcomed the decision but it may have been the worst possible victory for the state, providing reform advocates with more ammunition than a victory for their side could have yielded. Editorial reaction from newspapers around the state was nearly unanimous in condemning the ruling. The *New York Times* characterized it as "Blaming the Victim"; the *Albany Times-Union* called it "Shortchanging the Schools"; Long Island's *Newsday* summed it up as "Failing Grades: Appellate Division got it wrong: Schools should prepare

children for the 21st century." The *Buffalo News* called it, simply, a "Cruel Ruling." The Governor pledged to seek more aid reforms and said "we need to target more resources to our neediest districts." Those will be steep challenges in the ominous fiscal climate now facing the state.

Progress on Medicaid

In a more hopeful vein, there has been some progress toward a satisfactory resolution of Medicaid audits of New York school districts. The U.S. Department of Justice has suspended its investigation, encouraging the hope that the issue will be dealt with administratively and prospectively, requiring the state to revise its claiming procedures for the future but sparing schools from repaying potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in past claims, plus damages under the False Claims Act.

DOJ's action may prove only a temporary respite. State officials have noted that the federal Department of Health and Human Services admitted that it never issued clear guidance on the requirements. NYSCOSS will continue to work with representatives in Washington, state officials and other state education leadership groups to spare school districts from paying for others' failings.

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The New York State School Boards Association has introduced Community Connect, a new automated telephone service to give school districts a quick and accurate report on public sentiment.

NYSSBA used Community Connect to contact superintendents for information on the impact of the late state budget. The results were quickly tabulated and released to the media, state legislators and the governor. Community Connect has

also been used by the Sauquoit Valley and Croton-Harmon districts, and Herkimer BOCES.

Community Connect is quick and easy, it's cost-effective, it's anonymous, and it provides school districts with results within 24 hours of closing their surveys.

For more information, call David Ernst, Director of Communications and Research, at 800-342-3360 or visit the website at www.nyssba.org.

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Fall Keynoters Explore Inspired Leadership *Talks Eye Excellence, Building Champions and Understanding Poverty*

Besides a new setting in the beautiful city of Rochester, the NYSCOSS Fall Conference 2002 offers an array of inspiring speakers. The gathering takes place October 6 to 8 in the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. All participants will be housed in adjoining Hyatt Regency and Sheraton hotels.

2002 Fall Conference Chairman David Paciencia, Superintendent of Taconic Hills CSD, has lined up an impressive group of speakers.

Lee G. Bolman co-authored the books which formed the basis of the Council's Superintendents' Academy. For 20 years he taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He now holds the Marion Bloch Missouri Chair in Leadership at the Bloch School of Business and Public Administration, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

M.B. "Flip" Flippen is an internationally known speaker, educator and psychotherapist, focusing on the development of high-performing classrooms and teams. At Fall Conference 2002, he will discuss "Building Champions".

Ruby K. Payne rose up through the educational ranks of secondary teacher, department chair, elementary principal and central office administrator. Since 1994, she has been sharing her insights about poverty and how to help educators and other professionals work effectively with people from that culture. Her seminal work, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, teaches

the hidden rules of economic class as well as strategies for surmounting the obstacles created by poverty.

In their customary and much-anticipated addresses, New York State Commissioner of Education **Richard P. Mills** will hold a town hall meeting and discussion with superintendents, and Deputy Commissioner **James Kadamus** will address the latest state-level education developments.

Registration brochures for Fall Conference 2002 were mailed in early July. Be sure to sign up for this conference filled with enlightening activities, inspiring addresses and opportunities for collegiality.

Partners' Program in Rochester

The beautiful city of Rochester has much to offer spouses and guests of the Fall Conference.

NYSCOSS is making plans to make one of the following trips available to those interested in participating in our Partners' Program:

- #1 Tour of Sonnenburg Gardens followed by lunch and shopping in Canandaigua;
- #2 Outlet Shopping Excursion at the Waterloo Outlet Mall.

We encourage you to share this information with your partner and let us know which of these options is most appealing by calling 518/449-1063 or e-mailing tina@nyscoss.org.

Get to the Fall Conference



the Quick and Easy Way

Traveling to and from the NYSCOSS Fall Conference October 6-8 in Rochester may be less expensive and troublesome than members expect. Here are information and offers from two airlines, US Air and Jet Blue.

Jet Blue

- u Direct flights from JFK to Rochester.
- u Fares as low as \$44 one-way if you book now. Prices increase as date approaches.
- u Call (800) 538-2583 or visit: www.jetblue.com. Register via the Internet and get a \$10 discount.

US Air

- u Direct flights from LaGuardia to Rochester.
- u 5% discount on lowest fare at time of booking when you book through Carlson Travel.
- u Call (888) 566-2929 and request the convention discount for the NYSCOSS Fall Conference.

Rich Program Awaits New Superintendents Council, NYSED Offer Primer on Leadership in NY

The New Superintendents Conference, sponsored by The Thomas Group, is slated for August 25 and 26. Presented by the New York State Education Department and NYSCOSS, the conference is open to superintendents who are new to the position or to New York State.

The conference opens Sunday, August 25 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Albany. Registration is

at noon, followed by lunch, presentations, round-table discussions, a reception and dinner.

On Monday, August 26 the program takes place at the State Education Department and includes presentations by Commissioner

Richard P. Mills and Department staff. The program concludes with a luncheon at the University Club. For more information, please contact the Council offices at (518) 449-1063.



The New York State Education Department

Researchers Study Education Strategies

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Superintendents Offer Invaluable Help

The Educational Finance Research Consortium sends out thanks to all the superintendents (and their principals and teachers) who participated in its recent phone survey. EFRC completed over 700 interviews.

The first report—using the administrator data—was presented in May at a public symposium hosted by EFRC. It is available online at www.albany.edu/edfin. A report examining the teacher

data will be forthcoming.

Educators' cooperation and expertise are invaluable in helping EFRC gain a better understanding of the strategies used to educate the children of New York State, according to EFRC representatives John W. Sipple, Assistant Professor at Cornell University, and Kieran Killeen, Assistant Professor at the University of Vermont



NY State Business Officials Choose Leaders

Mary Beth Lovejoy Named President-Elect

Mary Beth Lovejoy of Monroe I BOCES was named President-Elect in the annual elections of the New York State Association of School Business Officials.

Also elected were four Directors: Bruce Watkins of Briarcliff Manor UFSD, Susan



Lovejoy

Villiers of North Tonawanda CSD, Greg Beall of Morrisville-Eaton CSD, and Margaret Boice of Norwich CSD.

NYSCOSS offers congratulations to the winners and best wishes for successful terms as leaders of NYSASBO.

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Superintendencies

BRITTONKILL CSD

James N. Baldwin, District Supt. \$100,000-\$110,000
 Questar III Enr: 1,385
 10 Empire State Boulevard Reply by:
 Castleton, NY 12033 9/30/02

CHERRY VALLEY-SPRINGFIELD CSD

Rural Schools Program \$88,000-\$96,000
 CVS Superintendent Search Enr: 750
 114 Kennedy Hall, Cornell University Reply by:
 Ithaca, NY 14853 9/6/02

CHURCHVILLE-CHILI CSD

C. Tod Eagle, District Supt. \$Competitive.
 Monroe2-Orleans BOCES Enr: 4,559.
 3599 Big Ridge Road Reply by:
 Spencerport, NY 14559 9/9/02

FRANKFORT-SCHUYLER CSD

Dr. John L. Stoothoff, District Supt. \$95,000-\$110,000
 Herk.-Fult.-Ham.-Otsego BOCES Enr: 1,119
 352 Gros Boulevard Reply by:
 Herkimer, NY 13350 8/30/02

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

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

GRAND ISLAND CSD

Vincent J. Coppolla, Executive Director \$115,000-\$125,000
 Western NY Educational Service Council Enr: 3,200
 SUNY Buffalo, 222 Baldy Hall Reply by:
 Buffalo, NY 14260-1000 8/9/02

HOPEVALE UFSD

Donald A. Ogilvie, District Supt. \$85,000-\$90,000
 Erie I BOCES Enr: 130
 355 Harlem Road Reply by:
 West Seneca, NY 14224 8/9/02

TUCKAHOE CSD

Gary D. Bixhorn, District Supt. \$Competitive
 Eastern Suffolk BOCES Enr:302
 PO Box 454 Reply by:
 Medford, NY 11763 8/9/02

WAPPINGERS CSD

Mary Grunow \$Competitive
 Dutchess County BOCES Enr: 12,000
 5 BOCES Road Reply by:
 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 8/1/02

WESTPORT CSD

Craig King, District Supt. \$85,000-\$95,000
 Clinton-Essex-Warren-Wash. BOCES Enr: 275
 P.O. Box 455 Reply by:
 Plattsburgh, NY 12901 9/20/02

Out-of-State Opportunities

(Contact NYSCOSS For Further Information)

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

High School Principal: New Fairfield School District, New Fairfield, CT. Enr: 900. By: ASAP. \$102,455-\$108,455.

Superintendent: Wallingford Public School District, Wallingford, CT. Enr: 7,100. By: 7/22/02. \$118,000-\$142,000.

Retirements

James J. Beardsley Long Lake 4/30/02

J. Edward Finn Hicksville 8/1/02

Daniel N. MacGregor North Warren 7/1/02

Richard J. Nelson Dansville 2/1/02

Beverly Ouderkirk.. Genesee Valley BOCES 8/30/02

Emmett Prosser Stillwater 7/02

Marcia Schwarz Sullivan BOCES 8/31/02

Other NYS Administrative Positions

(Contact District For Further Information)

Elementary Principal: Moravia CSD. Enr: N/A.
By: 8/16/02. \$Competitive BOE.

Elementary Principal: Hunter-Tannersville CSD.
Enr: 250. By: 8/1/02. \$70,000-\$75,000.

Elementary Principal: Corning-Painted Post CSD.
Enr: 5,900. Reply by: 8/9/02. \$75,000-\$90,000.

School Business Administrator: Gowanda CSD.
Enr: 1,450. By: 8/2/02. \$Competitive.

School Business Official: Lake George CSD. Enr: 1,070.
By: ASAP. \$65,000-\$75,000.

High School Principal: Weedsport CSD. Enr: 350.
Reply by: 7/15/02. Mid to high \$60,000s.

Director of Pupil Personnel Services: Tonawanda City
School District. Enr: N/A. By: 7/31/02. \$75,000-\$80,000.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities:
Dobbs Ferry UFSD. Enr: N/A. By: 9/1/02. \$Competitive.

High School Principal: Moriah CSD. Enr: 400.
By: 8/15/02. \$Based on experience.

Deputy Superintendent for General Administration and
Secondary Education: Hempstead UFSD. Enr: 7,400.
By: 7/26/02. \$150,000-\$170,000.

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education:
Hempstead UFSD. Enr: 7,400. By: 7/26/02. \$125,000-
\$150,000.

High School Principal: Hempstead UFSD. Enr: 7,400
(pre-K to 12). By: 7/26/02. \$86,000-\$137,000.

Elementary School Principal: Sauquoit Valley CSD.
Enr: N/A. By: 7/25/02. \$N/A.

Director of Finance: Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus
BOCES. Enr: 47,000. By: 8/16/02. \$76,800-\$86,300.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction: Erie 2-
Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES. Enr: 47,000. By: 8/16/02.
\$95,000-\$105,000.

Director of Pupil Personnel Services: Tonawanda City
School District. Enr: N/A. By: 7/31/02. \$75,000-\$80,000.

Assistant Middle School Principal: Phoenix CSD.
Enr: N/A. By: 7/26/02. \$57,500.

Director of Pupil Personnel Services & Special Education:
Phoenix CSD. Enr: N/A. By: 7/26/02. \$65,000-\$73,000.

Chief School Officer Appointments

Maureen Bright Hicksville 8/2/02
Deputy Superintendent in the district

John Canzoneri I., Chester 6/17/02

Jerry J. Cicchelli .. I., Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls 7/1/02

Cynthia DeDominick Madison 7/1/02
K-12 Principal in the district

Frank De Luca..... Greenburgh-Graham 9/1/02
Assistant Superintendent in the district

Roy Dexheimer I., Groton CSD 7/1/02

Mark Doodey Hudson Falls 8/1/02
Principal in the district

Deborah S. Flack Sauquoit Valley 7/15/02
Elementary Principal in the district

Donald Flynt Stillwater 7/1/02
High School Principal in the district

Thomas F. Gallagher Rome City 8/19/02
From SW Vermont

Clark Godshall I., Genesee Valley BOCES 7/1/02
District Superintendent at Orleans BOCES

Geoffrey N. Gordon Port Washington 9/1/02
From New Providence, NJ School District

Charlotte Gregory I., Wappingers 7/1/02

Bruce Levin Lake George 1/1/03
Assistant Superintendent for Business in the district

Thomas Marzeski Chittenango 9/1/02
From Cherry Valley-Springfield CSD

Joseph Murphy I., North Warren 7/1/02

Peter C. Scordo Hauppauge 7/1/02
From Eastport UFSD

John Semeniak..... A., Madison 3/4/02

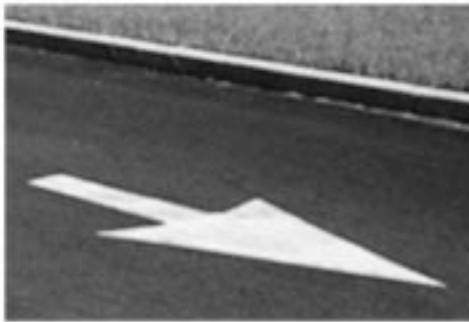
John Simons I., Long Lake 5/1/02

Brenda Smith I., Mount Vernon 7/1/02
Deputy Superintendent in the district

David R. Whipple ... I., Cherry Val.-Springfield 9/1/02

I. - Interim
A. - Acting

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North Rockland Prevails in Court

Wins Case Brought by Lighting Firm

Superintendent Dodge Watkins announced that his North Rockland district won the case brought against it by EUA Cogenex, a Massachusetts company that charged breach of contract. A federal jury in White Plains found instead that EUA had breached the terms of its contract with the district.

Under the 1991 contract, the company spent about \$1.1 million to install energy-saving lighting in 12 district buildings. The contract predicted the district would save \$2 million over the 15-year term of the agreement. The district stopped payments in 1998 when it discovered that, while the equipment reduced the kilowatts of energy used, energy bills did not drop as much as

promised.

EUA sued North Rockland for \$1.9 million in addition to sums already paid by the district.

The jury found that the district did not breach the contract when it stopped payment, but rather, EUA breached the agreement when it failed to produce the promised savings. The jury relieved the district of its obligation to make payments after 1998 and ordered EUA to pay \$1 in damages. The judge also allowed the district to recover its attorney's fees from EUA.

Dodge expressed the district's appreciation for the jury verdict and thanked the team of attorneys, led by John Henry of the Albany firm of Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna.

Retirement Brings New Undertaking

Mostow Brings Leadership Skills to Hospital Training

Rather than relaxation and inactivity, retirement has brought the challenges of work in a new field to Michael H. Mostow. Mike traded the mantle of Superintendent of **Roosevelt** for a new post as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, Long Island.

The newly created job includes

administration of all the education and training activities for the 4,300 staff affiliated with the hospital, as well as training for staff at six local health centers and the county nursing home.

The technical aspects are new, but the organizational activities are the same as those in a school district, Mike reports.

The best part of the new position? "No night meetings."

Got Good News to Share?

We Want to Hear About It

The Council is always looking for interesting personal stories, news of career milestones and the latest information on our members lives.

Please let us know what's happening

with you. Send word of your experiences and successes to NYSCOSS, 7 Elk Street, Third Floor, Albany, NY 12207. You can also reach us by fax at (518) 426-2229 or e-mail at tina@nyscoss.org.

Summertime

...and the "Gym" Is Right Outside

By: Darleen A. Michalak

As George Gershwin said, "summertime, and the livin' is easy." And it will be even easier if you enjoy fitness and good health. So, as these pleasant days drift by, make sure exercise is on your summer agenda.

According to the Center for Health Statistics, 7 in 10 adults do not exercise on a regular basis and 3 in 10 do not engage in any type of physical activity. If the statistics alone aren't alarming, the consequences certainly are a concern. Research repeatedly shows that health problems stem from inactivity. Add stress and over-eating to the mix, and you have major health threats, such as heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure.

So as we enjoy sun and blue skies over the next few months, turn to the outdoors for adventure and exercise. All you need to do is establish a routine of at least 30 minutes three days each week. Here are several examples of moderate physical activity that make an easy and fun summer fitness program:

1) **Walk your way to health:** You don't have to run or jog, just *walk!* Summer is an excellent time to put on those sneakers and tool around the block, or the park, or the beach...or sign up and walk yourself right into a 5K event. There are numerous 5K walks/runs all year long. It's good for your health and it's a good deed, too. These events get you outdoors and help financially support the many different sponsoring organizations.

2) **Kayaking/canoeing:** Why not paddle your way to good health? Just hop in a kayak or canoe and start paddling. Not only is it peaceful and relaxing to be on the water, it's a good opportunity to develop those arm muscles. Kayaks and canoes are fun to use, easily transportable, and not too expensive to rent or own.

3) **Gardening:** Weeding, raking and hoeing a garden provide another opportunity to exercise

outdoors. Gardening requires bending, stretching, digging, and lifting. To work on your upper body, try turning the ground over and bending to pull your weeds. To avoid an aching back, flex your knees when lifting the wheelbarrow. Gardening not only helps to tone your muscles but best of all, you get to reap what you sow. There's nothing better than fresh vegetables for your evening dinner, or a beautiful bouquet from your own garden.

4) **Bicycling:** Bikers often say there is no greater feeling of freedom than riding a bike. Pedaling a bike not only gives you that wonderful "free" feeling, but also provides a great aerobic workout and strengthens the lower body muscles. If you really want excitement, try mountain biking. Climbing hills will develop the upper body and arms as well as the lower body. Please remember bicycle helmets are now a requirement.

5) **Competitive Sports:** Tennis, volleyball, basketball and baseball are all great fun and provide wonderful physical activity. Remember to wear appropriate footwear and take care to avoid injury!

6) **Golf:** This is the sport of choice for many people. The pace may seem slow, but a great deal of stamina and strength is necessary to play the game. Cardiovascular conditioning is needed to complete those 18 holes. So, walking, cycling, gardening and other activities are great ways to get in shape for a round of golf...and may even help lower your handicap!

Whatever you choose to do, remember that physical activity should be something you look forward to, not something you dread. The sport that is right for you is the one you truly enjoy.

Darleen A. Michalak is Associate Superintendent of Erie 1 BOCES and a NYSCOSS Wellness Committee Member



The best exercise regimen is one you enjoy.

Wellness & Leadership

Court Approves Cleveland Voucher Program

Drug Testing for Extracurricular Students Okayed

In a 5-4 vote June 27, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the controversial Cleveland educational voucher plan constitutional.

The ruling stated that, "because the program was enacted for the secular purpose of providing educational assistance in a demonstrably failing public school system, the question is whether the program nonetheless has the forbidden effect of advancing or inhibiting religion."

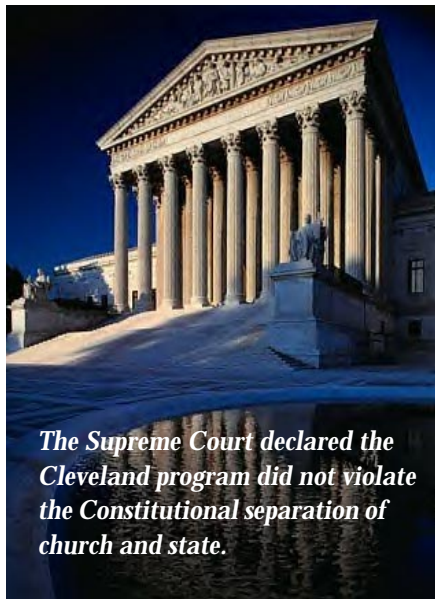
The Court then said any connection to religion or religious beliefs is through the parent, who chooses the school, and not the government, which provides the money. The voucher "offer[s] aid directly to a broad class of individuals defined without regard to religion."

The impact on public education is unclear at this time. AASA will keep members apprised of further developments.

Educators' Call to Action Conference Agenda Set

The Annual Educators' Call to Action: Federal Advocacy conference is slated for September 17-19 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, D.C. For complete information on the conference agenda and hotel rates, and to register online, go to www.aesa-serves.org/coming_events.html.

The Court also ruled it is permissible for a school district to require that students undergo drug testing in order to participate in extracurricular activities.



The Supreme Court declared the Cleveland program did not violate the Constitutional separation of church and state.

Nominations Sent Out for National Superintendent

The call has gone out for nominations to the 2003 National Superintendent of the Year Award, the highest honor a school superintendent can receive. The award recognizes outstanding educational leaders based on criteria of leadership for learning, communication skills, professionalism and community involvement. Nomination forms have been sent to school board presidents. They are due July 30, 2002. Application packets will be mailed to superintendents in the near future.

Pilot Program Offers

Rural Broadband Access

The Rural Utilities Service announces a pilot grant program for providing broadband transmission service in rural America. For fiscal year 2002, \$20 million in grants will be offered through a national competition.

Funds will be available to rural schools, libraries, education centers, health care providers, law enforcement agencies and public safety organizations, as well as residents and businesses.

Applications will be accepted through November 5. For more information, contact Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1590, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-1590; phone (202) 720-9554, fax (202) 720-0810.

Money Battles Will Be Very Tight

The stage has been set for a battle royal between the House and Senate over funding for education, health, human services and training programs. The Senate has decided to devote \$6 billion more new funds than the House to those areas.

Meanwhile, AASA reminds members to urge their representatives to vote this year for mandatory funding of special education at the 40% level promised by Congress in 1975.

Leaders Disappointed With Voucher Ruling *AASA Director Paul Houston on the Cleveland Voucher Case*

By Paul Houston

Americans overwhelmingly believe that their tax dollars should support public schools that educate all children, regardless of their academic needs, their physical or emotional disabilities, or their financial means.

Yet the Supreme Court ruled that the state of Ohio can redirect its citizens' money to private and religious schools that decide which privileged few students they will admit.

While we are troubled by the Court's action, it is limited to the Cleveland voucher case. In nine statewide referenda, the public has rejected vouchers in every case by at least a 2-1 margin.

AASA will continue to oppose any proposed law and/or referendum that would direct public tax

funds to religious and other private K-12 schools. Despite the Supreme Court's ruling, the job of public school superintendents remains the same: to work with our local communities and policymakers to ensure the best possible education for all children.



Paul Houston

America's public schools are open to every child, no matter how bright or troubled or physically challenged he or she may be. Vouchers let schools pick who they will allow to attend, without having to meet federal and

state standards or telling anyone how their students are performing.

Public school administrators know America's children deserve better than that.

Report Eyes Leadership for Improvement *Change Requires Abandoning Deeply Held Assumptions*

Leadership for School Improvement looks into the kinds of leadership strategies that bring about meaningful and lasting school reform.

The report synthesizes some of the current literature on leadership and offers ideas for further study.

Fundamental change, according to the report, often requires leaders to question deeply held assumptions and long-term practices. Leadership is larger than one person with a specific set of traits or skills,

the report states. It involves building the leadership capacity of the community of teachers, students, parents and administrators.

The report was prepared by McREL, a private, nonprofit organization which seeks to improve education through applied research and development.

For more information, go to www.mcrel.org/products/school-improve/leadership.asp.



Resources Offered for New Education Law

AASA's Terri Schwartzbeck has compiled a comprehensive list of resources for administrators implementing the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

To view this material, as well as links to other sources of useful information, go to www.aasa.org/issues_and_insights/, scroll down and click on "ESEA".

SAT Scores for Disabled No Longer Flagged

States' Bilingual Programs Under Attack

The College Board has agreed to stop flagging the **SAT results** of students who take the test under special conditions due to disabilities.

Advocates for the disabled have long opposed the flagging, saying it is discriminatory and stigmatizing, *The New York Times* reported July 15. But critics say the College Board's decision will open the floodgates to students seeking special accommodations without having real disabilities.

Virginia became the fourth state to require school districts to post the national motto, "**In God We Trust**" in every school building, according to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, July 15. Some schools hung posters displaying the motto even before the law required it.

Of the 41 students who perpetrated **school attacks** since 1974, 71% said they felt bullied by schoolmates, according to a study by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education. According to the *Boston Globe*, July 14, Secret Service officials told a conference in Boston that the study points up the need for educators to connect with students before they feel persecuted, with nowhere to turn.

Massachusetts voters are solidly in favor of a referendum to do away with the state's **bilingual education** program in favor of a one-year immersion program, according to a *Boston Herald* poll reported on in the July 15 issue. The ballot initiative, proposed by California billionaire Ron Unz, has already been approved in a handful of other states.

In Colorado, another state which may have the Unz-sponsored amendment on the upcoming ballot, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige said

that the choice between bilingual education or immersion programs should be left up to local districts. In Denver to talk about the No Child Left Behind plan, Paige said the decision whether to do away with native-language programs "has to be made at the point of instruction," the *Denver Post* reported July 14.



Immersion advocate
Ron Unz

North Carolina threw out the poor results of a **writing test** administered to fourth and eighth graders, blaming unclear wording of essay questions for the weak showing, CNN.com reported July 12. Only 43% of fourth graders and 67% of seventh graders passed the writing test. The state Board of Education voted 9-1 not to penalize schools for poor performance.

The Maryland Legislature voted to boost **education spending** by more than \$1.3 billion over the next 5 years in order to provide students in poorer districts with the support needed to meet the state's new education standards, according to the Associated Press, July 14. While other states have made such spending increases in response to lawsuits, Maryland boosted its support for education following a task force study which found that meeting educational standards would require the statewide per-pupil spending to nearly double.

The history and literature of the Holocaust have become embedded in the curriculum of American schools, according to Reuters, July 14. **Holocaust education** is mandatory in six states including New York and strongly recommended in 10 others. But the topic appears in virtually every middle school and high school curriculum across the country.

CALENDAR

2002-03

New Superintendents' Program
August 25-26.....Albany

Fall Conference
October 6-8..... Rochester

Pathways to the Superintendency
October 18 & 25 Seven Sites

Dimensions of Leadership
November 1 & 8 Seven Sites

New Superintendents' Leadership:
Success in the First Three Years
November 15 Three Sites

Reflections on Leadership
December 6 & 13 Seven Sites

Mid-Winter Conference
January 12-13 Albany

New York State Reception: AASA National
Conference on Education
February 21 New Orleans