

COUNCILGRAM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

New Council Leader Takes Office

William H. Johnson, Superintendent of Rockville Centre, assumed the office of NYSCOSS President on Monday, October 2, 2001. Dr. Johnson was presented with the President's Gavel at the Council's Annual Banquet at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga. He succeeds Dr. Donald B. Trombley, Superintendent of Corning-Painted Post.



William H. Johnson

Dr. Johnson has been a member of NYSCOSS since 1986. He has served as a member of the House of Delegates, Commissioner's Advisory Council, and Fall and Mid-Winter Conference Committees. Before assuming the Presidency, Dr. Johnson served as member of the Executive Committee and as an officer for eight years. A strong advocate for public schools, Dr. Johnson will

focus on moving the Council forward as a leading organization for public education and superintendents.

The 2001-2002 Executive Committee underwent other changes as officer **David A. Paciencia**, Taconic Hills, became the President-Elect, **James Mills** of Silver Creek moved into the Vice-President's seat and **William J. Brosnan**, Northport-E. Northport, became Treasurer.

Executive Committee elections took place on Sunday, September 30. Joining the Executive Committee are **Stephen Uebbing** of Canandaigua City School District and **Leslie (Les) Loomis** of Bethlehem CSD. Superintendents **Marilyn Pirkle**, Rondout Valley CSD, and **Robert Service** of Mohawk CSD were re-elected. **Angelo Gimondo**, NYC District #30, **Diane Reed**, Honeoye Falls-Lima, **Sylvia Root**, Potsdam, and **Ronald Smalls**, of Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls, complete the roster.



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OCTOBER, 2001
VOLUME IV; ISSUE 2

Commissioner Reinstates Superintendent

In an extraordinary show of support for school leaders, the Commissioner reinstated the superintendent of the Roosevelt school district in Nassau County just hours after the board president had him escorted from the school premises.

Scarcely 3 months after signing a 3-year contract with superintendent Horace Williams, the President of the troubled school district held an emergency weekend meeting after which Williams was directed to resign. At the recommendation of the NYSCOSS legal service, Williams remained in place while

the order was challenged until he was physically escorted from the school grounds two days later.

Responding within hours of this event, the Commissioner served (through district superintendent Jerry Shively) an order finding the board's actions illegal, superceding those actions, and reinstating the superintendent the very same day.

The events come at a difficult time for the district. As the previous legislation giving the Commissioner oversight powers expires, the Legislature is considering a Regents' proposal to increase the

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NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

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Robert L. Loretan, *Executive Director*
Thomas L. Rogers, *Deputy Director*
Kelly O. Masline, *Associate Director*
Kristen M. Epifanio, *Assistant Director*
Tina Hogle, *Assistant Director*



PRESIDENT

William H. Johnson
Rockville Centre

OFFICERS

David A. Paciencia, *President-Elect*
Taconic Hills

James N. Mills, *Vice-President*
Silver Creek

William J. Brosnan, *Treasurer*
Northport-E. Northport

Donald B. Trombley, *Past President*
Corning-Painted Post

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Angelo Gimondo
NYC District #30

Leslie G. Loomis
Bethlehem

Marilyn O. Pirkle
Rondout Valley

Diane E. Reed
Honeoye Falls-Lima

Sylvia A. Root
Potsdam

Robert J. Service
Mohawk

Ronald Smalls
Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls

Stephen J. Uebbing
Canandaigua

Continued from page 1

Commissioner's authority and perhaps take over the district. Given their tenuous political position, the board's precipitous and illegal actions may serve to undermine their resistance to expanded state control.

Court Upholds Commissioner's Decision in Favor of Superintendent

The State Supreme Court of Albany County recently upheld Commissioner Mills' decision to restore Robert Riccobono as superintendent of Community School District 19 with full back pay and benefits. This decision stems from an earlier appeal heard by the Commissioner regarding the City School Board's decision to support former Chancellor Rudolph Crew's removal of Superintendent Riccobono from his position. Relying heavily upon the arguments presented in the amicus brief submitted by the law firm of Girvin & Ferlazzo on behalf of NYSCOSS, the Court concurred with the Commissioner's findings that the former Chancellor failed to comply with the provisions of §2590-1 (1) (a) of the Education Law.

Although the opinion is based primarily on the law governing the community school district system, the implications of an adverse decision could have had far reaching effects. The court's decision establishes boundaries on the authority the Chancellor is given under §2590-1 of the Education Law and affirms the protections afforded to superintendents through their employment contracts as well as the due process rights guaranteed by the Constitution. While the City Board has the right to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court Appellate Division, at this time no papers have been filed.

State Budget News

The spirit of bi-partisanship that passed through Albany in the wake of the WTC attacks appeared to be fading as a special session of the Legislature resulted in only one-week extensions to long-standing laws set to expire. As a result, legislators will be back again next week to discuss budget, anti-terrorism legislation and PINS reforms.

Senate Majority Leader Bruno expressed continued hope for a supplemental budget even as the Executive and Comptroller released sobering figures on state finances. The Comptroller's monthly cash report, which does not yet reflect the impact of the WTC disaster, showed the state's general fund receipts some \$528 million below Executive Fiscal plan projections due to the slowing economy. Coupled with an Assembly economic report noting that "The area below 14th Street in Manhattan ... represent(ed) 14.9 percent of wages in New York State in 2000," one can expect these figures to become worse once the WTC impact is included. The Executive has ordered a hiring freeze, a state retirement incentive, and spending cuts designed to save \$3 billion against a potential two-year revenue loss of between \$4 and \$9 billion.

Continued on page 15

Record Numbers Attend Fall Conference

Annual Banquet at Historic Hall of Springs a Success

NYSCOSS President William B. Johnson is receiving praise for the success of the 2001 Fall Conference which was attended by more superintendents than ever before. Of special note was the elegant Annual Banquet at the Hall of Springs which was attended by over 570 people.

The Council extends sincere thanks to general and concurrent session presenters and presidents, the **Program Committee** and the **Vendor Relations Committee**, all of whom worked diligently to make the conference a success. Thanks also to the organizers of athletic activities: 5K Walk/Run, **Oliver Blaise**, and the Wellness Committee; Golf Tournament, **Jack Whelan**, ; and Tennis, **Roy Dexheimer**.

At the Annual Banquet, colleagues were newly inducted as **Retired Life Members**. Each member was presented with a distinctive gold-and-blue pin

designed exclusively for Retired Life Members.

Former NYSCOSS Executive Directors **John Henry Bennett** and **James J. O'Connell** were honored when their portraits were unveiled at the banquet. Painter Coreen Steinbach, wife of Past President Donald Trombley, was on hand to see her beautiful artwork received. The paintings will hang at the NYSCOSS Board Room on Elk Street.

Joyce Bisso, a doctoral candidate at Teachers College of Columbia University and principal of George W. Hewlett High School, received the \$2000 Raymond R. Delaney Memorial Scholarship underwritten by Utica National Insurance Group.

The 2001 Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Gordon Klumpp**, retired Superintendent of Groton CSD. David E. Gee, Chair of NYSCOSS Distinguished Service Committee, presented the award.

Mid-Winter Conference Keynoter Slated

Peter Yarrow to Kick Off Conference With Words and Song

Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary presents a call to action in a mini-concert format. Through his music, Peter encourages teachers, parents, youth and youth workers to collaborate in support of strategies which teach the value of respect and help build caring and responsible communities. Capping over a forty year career in which he has used his music as a motivator, sensitizer and organizing force, Peter has founded a project called "Don't Laugh at Me" that is playing a prominent



role nationwide to address disrespect, ridicule and bullying as root causes of emotional and physical violence among children. Peter's words and songs continue to inspire new audiences to commit their time and talent toward the creation of a more just and more compassionate society.

The Mid-Winter Conference will take place at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany from January 13-15. The event will focus on the aftermath of the September 11 attack on America, with emphasis on teaching **tolerance**, **patriotism** and **core values**. Reservation forms for the conference will be sent in the near future.

Executive Director Returns to Albany

Council staff and colleagues are tremendously pleased that Robert Loretan has recently returned to NYSCOSS daily operations in Albany after a complete recovery from cardiac surgery.

Bob would like to extend his thanks to the

many people who sent cards and letters to wish him well during his recuperation. The support and concern of friends and colleagues bolstered Bob's determination to regain his strength and good health.



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AASA Delegates Selected

The following NYSCOSS members will represent New York at the AASA Delegate Assembly on February 14, 2002 in San Diego, CA. Apologies to Anthony Cavanna whose name was inadvertently omitted from the September listing.

William H. Johnson
Superintendent
Rockville Centre UFSD

Anthony Cavanna
Retired Superintendent
New York University Professor

Roberta A. Gerold
Superintendent,
Farmingdale UFSD

Albert F. Inserra
Superintendent of Schools
Port Washington UFSD

Marcia Schwarz
Assistant Superintendent
Sullivan BOCES

Ronald L. Smalls
Superintendent of Schools
Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls UFSD

Professional Certification Committee Seeks Members

The NYSCOSS Professional Certification Committee is seeking members. There is little need to travel, since this committee meets primarily via e-mail. For more information, contact Roberta Gerold, Superintendent, Farmingdale UFSD, at rgerold@fpsmail.k12.ny.us.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

NYSCOSS expresses gratitude to the 2001-02 Corporate Sponsors who provide support for the Council's initiatives. Special thanks to those who attended the Fall Conference. Council staff and members greatly appreciate the considerable contributions made by the following organizations:

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New Superintendents' Leadership Academy *Program Offers Strategies for Success in the First Three Years*

NYSCOSS is pleased to announce the New Superintendents' Leadership Program: Success in the First Three Years, to be offered in three locations across the state on Friday, November 16, 2001.

First, second and third year superintendents are invited and encouraged to meet with colleagues for a discussion with emeritus faculty of the Superintendents' Academy. The half-day program, running from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., will provide new Superintendents the opportunity to discuss current issues in the superintendency and share practical and successful strategies.

Current issues that will be discussed are: the school boards/Superintendents' relationships; school budget preparation; bond issues; student achievement and long range planning. Presentations will be followed by small group discussions at which time the floor will be open for discussion of other issues. The program will finish with ongoing conversation over lunch.

The program is being offered at:

Capital Region BOCES
1031 Watervliet-Shaker Road
Meeting Room A , Albany, NY
Leaders: Robert B. McClure, and Barbara Nagler

Monroe I BOCES
41 Connor Road
Board Room (R-13), Fairport, NY
Leaders: John Delaney, and Gregory Vogt

Western Suffolk BOCES
507 Deer Park Road
Small Conference Room, Dix Hills, NY
Leaders: Candee Swenson, and Ronald Valenti

The \$25 registration fee will cover the cost of breakfast and lunch. Registration forms and fees must be received by November 7.

NYSCOSS urges all new Superintendents to be a part of this valuable session.

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Commissioner's Advisory Council *Representatives, Meeting Dates Announced*

The following members were selected to serve on the Commissioner's Advisory Council:

Region I Stephen Bocciolatt, Randolph
Region II Mary Alice Price, Churchville-Chili
Region III..... James Piscitelli, Oneonta
Region IV Walter Doherty, Central Square
Region V James Van Wormer, Waterville
Region VI Carl Mangee, Carthage
Region VII..... George Amedore, Plattsburgh
Region VIII Richard England, Johnsbury
Region IX Alan Derry, New Paltz
Region X Robert Mac Naughton, Ramapo
Region XI Mary Ellen Freeley, Glen Cove
Region XII..... William Bolton, Copiague
New York City Angelo Gimondo, NYC #30

The CAC gathers for dinner on the evening prior to each meeting with the Commissioner to review topics to be discussed. CAC members will receive information several weeks prior to each meeting.

- Thursday, November 15, 2001
- Friday, February 1, 2002
- Friday, March 8, 2002
- Friday, May 10, 2002



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Robert J. Reidy, Jr.
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459 Philo Road
Elmira, NY 14903-1093

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Enr: 1,300
Reply by:
12/21/01

HORSEHEADS CSD

Richard Castallo
Castallo & Silky
P.O. Box 100
Syracuse, NY 13215

\$115,000-\$130,000
Enr: 4,500
Reply by:
11/30/01

LA FAYETTE CSD

Richard Castallo
Castallo & Silky
P.O. Box 100
Syracuse, NY 13215

\$100,000-\$120,000
Enr: 1,134
Reply by:
ASAP

MARGARETVILLE CSD

Alan D. Pole, District Supt.
Otsego-N.Catskill BOCES
Frank W. Cyr Center
Stamford, NY 12167

\$85,000-\$90,000
Enr: 530
Reply by:
11/30/01

NEWCOMB CSD

Gerald Carozza, District Supt.
Wash.-Sara.-Warr.-Ham.-Essex BOCES
10 LaCrosse Street
Hudson Falls, NY 12839-1415

\$88,000+
Enr: 70
Reply by:
11/1/01

ROCKLAND BOCES

Vincent Beni
Focus Consulting Associates
P.O. Box 516
Carmel, NY 10512

\$N/A
Enr: N/A
Reply by:
12/1/01

SALMON RIVER CSD

David DeSantis, District Supt.
Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES
P.O. Box 28
Malone, NY 12953

\$95,000-\$110,000
Enr: 1,551
Reply by:
12/28/01

SOUTH COUNTRY CSD

South Country Search
c/o SCOPE
100 Lawrence Ave.
Smithtown, NY 11787

\$Competitive
Enr: 4,600
Reply by:
11/30/01

SOUTH SENECA CSD

Timothy O'Neill
Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES
555 Warren Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

\$90,000-\$95,000
Enr: 1,050
Reply by:
12/1/01

TULLY CSD

Lee G. Peters, District Supt.
Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES
P.O. Box 4754
Syracuse, NY 13221

\$105,000-\$115,000
Enr: 1,281
Reply by:
ASAP

UNION-ENDICOTT CSD

William Silky/Suzanne Gilmour
Castallo & Silky
P.O. Box 100
Syracuse, NY 13215

\$120,000-\$130,000
Enr: 4,700
Reply by:
12/3/01

WEST SENECA CSD

William Silky/Suzanne Gilmour
Castallo & Silky
P.O. Box 100
Syracuse, NY 13215

\$130,000
Enr: 7,500
Reply by:
11/23/01

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

Superintendent: School Administrative Unit #10, Derry, NH. Enr: 4,689. By: 12/12/01. \$90,000-\$105,000.

Superintendent: Tenafly Public School District, Tenefly, NJ. Enr: 2900. By: 1/18/02. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: Field Local School District, Porthage County, OH. Enr: 2,292. By: 11/21/01. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: School Administrative Unit #6, Claremont, Cornish and Unity, NH. Enr: 2000. By: ASAP. \$90,000's BOE.

Superintendent: Weston Public School District, Weston, CT. Enr: 2200. By: 11/09/01. \$140,000-\$160,000.

Superintendent: Fraser Public School District, Fraser, MI. Enr: 4610. By: 12/20/01. Not less than \$110,000.

Superintendent: Somers School District, Somers, CT. Enr: 1600. By: 11/26/01. \$95,000-\$110,000.

Superintendent: Watchung Hills Regional High School District, Somerset County, NJ. Enr: 1,400. By: 11/15/01. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: Lincolnview Local School District, Lincolnview, OH. Enr: 846. By: 11/15/01. \$Competitive.

Other NYS Administrative Positions (Contact District For Further Information)

Director of Special/Alternative Education: Ulster County BOCES. Enr: 300. By: 11/30/01. mid-\$80,000s.

Deputy Superintendent: Southern Westchester BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$130,000-\$160,000.

Principal: Clayton A. Bouton Junior-Senior High School, Boorheesville CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

Assistant Principal: Wildwood Education Center, Steuben-Allegany BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 10/26/01. \$55,000-\$60,000.

Director of Admissions: City University of New York. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$75,000-\$100,000.

Assistant Superintendent: Windham-Ashland-Jewett CSD. Enr: N/A. By: 11/30/01. \$Competitive.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Support Services: Oneida City School District. Enr: N/A. By: 12/14/01. \$80,000-\$90,000.

Director of Instructional Services: Peru Central Schools. Enr: 2,300. By: 10/26/01. \$65,000-\$75,000.

High School Principal: Cortland City Schools (grades 9 & 10). Enr: N/A. By: 11/15/01. \$68,000-\$72,000.

High School Assistant Principal (2): Mamaroneck UFSD. Enr: N/A. By: 10/22/01. \$Competitive.

Elementary School Principal: Mamaroneck UFSD. Enr: N/A. By: 10/22/01. \$Competitive.

Business Administrator: Delhi CSD. Enr: 1,152. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

High School Principal: Locust Valley CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$112,876-\$137,730.

Supervisor of Special Education (2 Positions): Otsego-Northern Catskills BOCES. Enr: N/A. \$Based on experience.

Assistant Superintendent for Business: Port Jervis City School District. Enr: 3,500. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

School Business Administrator: Ichabod Crane CSD. Enr: 2,350. By: ASAP. \$70,000.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction: Auburn Enlarged CSD. Enr: 4,960. By: 10/26/01. \$75,000-\$85,000.

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Finance: Auburn Enlarged CSD. Enr: 4,960. By: 10/26/01. \$75,000-\$85,000.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Management Services: Springville-Griffith Institute CSD. Enr: N/A. By: 11/8/01. \$Based on experience.

High School Principal: East Meadow UFSD. Enr: 1,600. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

Elementary Principal: Valley Stream UFSD #13. Enr: 600. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

2nd Annual BOCES Conference

Jointly sponsored by NYSCOSS, AASBO, and NYSSBA, this conference will explore current issues and trends affecting BOCES and its constituents.

November 16 & 17
The Gideon Putnam, Saratoga
For more information contact Hugh Clark

at hughclark@nyssba.org
(518) 465-3474

Chief School Officer Appointments

Thomas C. Barry Andover CSD, 9/1/2001
Assistant Superintendent

Martin Handler I.D.S., Rockland BOCES, 9/3/01
Current District Superintendent, Sullivan BOCES

Robert Mackey Downsville CSD, 1/2002
Building Principal

Michael O'Brien Andover CSD, 9/1/2001

Michael Valley I., St. Regis Falls, 8/15/01

A. = Acting I. = Interim

Retirements

Charles H. Clemens Elmira Heights 8/1/02

Joseph Coleman LaFayette 7/02

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NYSCOSS Salutes Twenty Year Members

The New York State Council of School Superintendents salutes the following current active members who have completed twenty or more consecutive years of active NYSCOSS membership.

Donald V. Andrews Wallkill
 C. Thomas Bailey Spencer-Van Etten
 William J. Bassett Orange-Ulster BOCES*
 Deedrick A. Bertholf Delaware-Chenango BOCES
 Oliver N. Blaise, Jr. Windsor
 Thomas Boedicker West Islip*
 Harry F. Brooks Broadalbin-Perth
 Rene L. Bouchard Steuben-Allegany BOCES
 Gary J. Buehler, Oswego*
 Patrick Calnon Chateaugay
 Kent F. Cauley Putnam
 Gerald J. Carozza Washington-Saratoga-Warren BOCES
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 James B. Torrance Clinton*
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 Dennis M. Sweeney Union Endicott
 Stephen H. Urgenson Sharon Springs
 Ronald D. Valenti Smithtown
 Gregory J. Vogt Monroe 1 BOCES
 Dodge A. Watkins Haverstraw-Stony Point

*2001 Retired Life Members

Nominations/Presenters Sought for Mid-Winter Conference Themes

The Distinguished Service Committee is seeking nominations for awards given at the Mid-Winter Conference. The **Friend of the Council Award** recognizes non-members' service to the Council. **Appreciation Awards** recognize members' contributions to Council initiatives. **Send nominations to David Gee, Distinguished Service Committee Chair,**

Western Suffolk BOCES or to the Council offices by December 15.

Superintendents interested in presenting a **concurrent session** at the conference should submit a proposal for consideration by November 15, 2001. All proposals will be reviewed by the Conference Committee and selections will be made.

In Memoriam

John Dunn, former Superintendent of Springfield Central Schools and Mt. Morris Central Schools, died June 28, 2001. John also served as an Interim Superintendent in many schools in central and western New York. He was truly a friend of the children he served.

Supreme Court To Hear Pivotal Voucher Case

Attorney General Warns About "Club Drugs"

In order to combat the growing proliferation of teenage drug usage, Attorney General John Ashcroft has established a Teen Drug Use Initiative within the Department of Justice.

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Of concern is the increased use of "club drugs," trendy yet potentially deadly substances such as Ecstasy.

An informative pamphlet entitled "Tips for Parents—The Truth About Club Drugs" is available by contacting the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at www.ncjs.org or by calling (800) 851-3420.

Taking on a potentially historic case, the U.S. Supreme Court announced last week that it will decide whether the U.S. Constitution permits government-financed tuition vouchers to be used at religious schools.

The court will review a case challenging the constitutionality of the 6-year-old Cleveland voucher program, which provides state aid for private school tuition to some 4,000 students from low-income families. Some 96 percent of the students use vouchers to attend religiously affiliated schools.

The justices have passed up opportunities in recent years to review other school choice programs, but with their Sept. 25 order accepting the Cleveland case for review, the justices have signaled they are ready to tackle an educational issue that has deeply divided educators, legal experts, and the public, *Education Week* reported on October 5, 2001.

The Washington Post reported on October 5, 2001 that the Bush administration is moving to **revamp the federal law** that guarantees disabled students a "free, appropriate" public education, saying that the landmark legislation has spun out of control since it was enacted more than a quarter century ago. The president appointed a commission to recommend changes in the **Individuals with Disabilities**

Education Act by next spring, when Congress is scheduled to rewrite the law.

Bush administration officials have stressed that special education students frequently achieve poorly, in school, despite the vast amounts of money spent to educate them. Supporters of IDEA stress that many of the program's problems could be solved if the federal government fully funded its share of the program's costs.

A new federal statute increases **military recruiter access** to secondary students. According to the July 24 *Whiteman Osterman & Hanna School Law Letter*, effective July 1, 2002, public law will require local educational agencies to provide the Department of Defense, upon a request made for military recruiting purposes, the same access to secondary school students and to directory information concerning such students, as is provided generally to post-secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of those students. The touchstone question for districts who receive requests for access from the military will be what their current practices are for non-military recruiters. Districts who maintain restricted access will be allowed to enforce that limited access against military recruiters as well. Districts who grant broad access will violate the law if they adopt a different rule for military recruiters.

National Conference Speakers Slated

Leadership the Focus of Presentations, Lectures and Workshops

The AASA National Conference on Education will take place February 15-17, in San Diego, CA.

Keynote Speakers **Jim Hayhurst** and **Dolly Parton** will kick off the Conference on Friday, February 15. **Roy Romer**, Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District will follow on Saturday and the conference will end on a high note with comedian and syndicated columnist, **Mark Russell** on Sunday, February 17.

Program areas will focus on Preparing and Enhancing School Leaders, Leadership for Children and the Community, and Leading Schools and School Systems into the Future.



For more detailed information about conference programs, speakers and reservations, visit www.aasa.org.

The **New York State Reception** will be held on Friday, February 15. Details will follow.

Reminder to New York State Attendees:

Those who wish to be included in the New York State housing block at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort must return room forms to **NYSCOSS by December 5, 2002**. Individuals who return forms directly to AASA will receive rooms at another hotel.

Tribute Award Scholarship Enters 11th Year

AASA and NYSCOSS Work Together With Discover Card

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The New York State Council of School Superintendents is pleased to be working with Discover Card and AASA as the Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship Program enters its 11th year.

This unique program honors outstanding high school juniors by making available \$22,500 for nine scholarships in each state and the District of Columbia and \$225,000 for nine national scholarships. Annually, this means over 460 scholarships are available worth nearly 1.5 million dollars.

Whether juniors plan to become certified or licensed in a trade, take training courses at a technical school,

graduate from a two-year college or four-year university, these scholarships can help them realize their dreams.

While juniors must have a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average for the 9th and 10th grades, they need more than academic achievement. Multi-talented young people are sought who take the lead in their endeavors, who may have overcome obstacles and who are making life better for those around them.



NYSCOSS will be coordinating a panel of judges representing New York education and business sectors as well as local communities. This panel will select state winners whose

names will be submitted to a Blue Ribbon panel. This panel, representing a variety of perspectives such as education, business, government and the public at large, will select the national Tribute Award winners.

Information has been mailed to all high school guidance offices. **Deadline for receipt of Tribute Award applications is January 11, 2002.** State and national Tribute Award winners will be announced in mid-May. Additional applications may be requested on-line from www.aasa.org/discover.htm or by writing or calling AASA at P.O. Box 9338, Arlington, VA, 22219, (703) 875-0708 or NYSCOSS at 7 Elk Street, Third Floor, Albany, NY, 12207-1002, (518) 449-1063.



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The future of Governor Pataki's \$54 billion request for Federal Aid is at best uncertain and likely ambitious.

The figures make a comprehensive supplemental budget unlikely. In education, the leaders have only favorably mentioned Teacher Center restorations, but are strongly rumored to be considering member item spending as well, placing both these interests ahead of their statutory commitment to reimburse schools for expenditures for disabled students and BOCES.

According to a School Boards Association survey, half of the districts have revenue holes resulting from the "baseline" budget.



A recent AP story created confusion by appearing to suggest that the Legislature added an additional \$363 million in building aid to the \$382 million approved in the baseline budget. To clarify, this figure recognizes the Legislature's rejection of the Executive's cost savings measures, but is universally presumed to be vastly overstated. While this admission should give some comfort to those districts anticipating building aid reimbursement, the lack of a categorical statement assuring that no subsequent changes will occur—or even of a building aid run—has left districts uneasy about counting on the additional aid.

Because the additional building aid flows disproportionately to areas outside the large cities, especially New York, NYC's share of the overall education increase drops under a "building aid only" scenario. This would be a tremendous political liability for City legislators in ordinary years, but is made even more so in the context of the successful CFE funding decision.

For more information see *GRAMlinks* on our home page: www.nyscoss.org.

Regents Release Draft Code of Ethics

Last week at the Board of Regents' monthly meeting, a draft Code of Ethics for Teachers was discussed. The work product of the State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching is intended to be a public statement by teachers, which includes classroom teachers, school leaders and pupil personnel providers, that sets forth clear

expectations and principles to guide the practice. The draft Code identifies 6 principles focusing on the core values of the profession. In the coming weeks, the Department is planning to broadly distribute the document for review by teachers, school communities and the public with action on the final version of the Code scheduled for the spring of 2002.

Error Found in Scoring 8th Grade Tests

The State Education Department has confirmed that some score reports sent to schools for the 8th grade English Language Arts exam were not accurate, requiring new score reports to be issued. Even though these are not technically "norm-referenced" tests, a sampling methodology is used to set difficulties for individual test items. It appears that the sample was not reflective of the population as a whole, causing the discrepancy. After many districts reported results that were inconsistent with local evaluations, the testing contractor CTB confirmed the existence of the error and SED embargoed the scores.

The lack of transparency in the secret system for converting from raw scores to scale scores has frustrated those wishing to use the tests as diagnostic tools and has made scoring errors particularly difficult to find and correct. However, under the new contract, this scoring system will apparently be significantly improved.

This latest controversy with the testing system fuels critics' concerns about the limitations of using testing as a sole accountability mechanism or to make high-stakes decisions regarding students. While useful as diagnostic and evaluation tools and as part of a multiple assessment strategy, standardized tests may not be as robust as policy-makers, the media and public presume.

Middle States Accreditation Changes

Middle States has announced a new school evaluation and accreditation model. Curriculum committee chair Walt Sullivan, Superintendent, Skaneateles, reports that the new approach is an improvement over the current model and relies on the use of data and outside evaluators. Of concern, however, is the high cost of the program. Copies of the new model are available through the NYSCOSS offices.

CALENDAR

2001-2002

Superintendents' Academy
Nov. 2 Seven Sites

Executive Committee Meeting
Nov. 14 Albany

Commissioner's Advisory Council
Nov. 15 Albany

New Superintendents' Leadership Program
Nov. 16 Three Sites

Superintendent's Post Graduate Academy
Dec. 7 Three Sites

Mid-Winter Conference
Jan. 13-15 Albany

Executive Committee Meeting
Jan. 31 Albany

Commissioner's Advisory Council
Feb. 1 Albany

AASA National Conference on Education
Feb. 15-17 San Diego, CA

Executive Committee Meeting
March 7 Albany

Commissioner's Advisory Council
March 8 Albany

Instructional Leadership
April 26 Seven Sites

The NYSCOSS



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Save the date!**



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