

COUNCILGRAM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Liberty Undeterred



**OVER 100 YEARS OF
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Governor's Thanks to Schools

The residents of New York City and all those affected by the events of September 11, 2001 are truly thankful for the outpouring of support from their fellow New Yorkers. The response from all the communities of New York State has been tremendous, and this is certainly true for our schools.

On behalf of the residents of New York City and our State, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the superintendents, board members and staff of our schools, for your efforts and overwhelming generosity in helping those victimized by this tragic act. You have done so much to allay our children's fears, to teach tolerance, and to build the spirit of community across New York in the wake of this terrible tragedy.

I and all our fellow New Yorkers extend our heartfelt thanks for the moral, personal and professional support you continue to provide to the children of our great State. Standing united and working together, we will come through these dark days to a better and brighter future.

George E. Pataki
Governor of New York State



Thomas E. Franklin, The [North Jersey] Record

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**SEPTEMBER, 2001
VOLUME IV; ISSUE 1**

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NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

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Tina Hogle, *Assistant Director*



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Schools, State Work in Concert *Officials Act Quickly for School Safety*

Sometimes, a picture is worth *more* than a thousand words.

Every one of the city and state's institutions has been profoundly affected by the tragic events of September 11, and the education system is certainly no exception.

The increased focus on school security over the past several years paid an immediate dividend during the crisis, as emergency plans were activated, surrounding schools were quickly and safely evacuated, and downstate school officials began to deal with the potential impact on affected students and staff.

The level of access to and response from state officials was exceptional.

Within 10 minutes of receiving calls from Council President-Elect Bill Johnson and President Don Trombley expressing security concerns, Governor Pataki cancelled the primary election, enabling schools to control their visitors.

Commissioner Mills made crisis response materials available, activated the state's emergency network of mental health profes-

sionals, and suspended licensing rules to allow medical and mental health professionals from other states to volunteer in New York.

Any tragedy this large will affect members of every community, and it was with heavy hearts that we learned that our friend

and colleague Armand Reo (Supt., Troy) lost his son John and his son-in-law John Swain, who both worked in the World Trade Center.

Much obviously remains to be done. The continued evacuation of at least 4 schools has put increased pressure on the already overcrowded NYC school system. Work-

ing with SED and the Governor's staff, we have compiled a list of what we in the education community can do to help.

- ◆ Counselors for students and staff have been made available through the State and County mental health offices and can be contacted directly or through SED.
- ◆ SED has indicated that federal disaster relief funds will be made available, and

"In response to the terrible events of September 11, school leaders helped provide the stability and routine that children and everyone else needed so much. They did this by keeping school open, providing solid instruction and supporting children and families in difficult times. For your work when children needed you most, I join the people of New York in thanking you."

Commissioner Richard P. Mills

Continued on page 15

Partisanship Dissolves in Wake of Attacks

Questions About State Education Spending Remain

Lawmakers returned to Albany in the wake of the World Trade Center attack to take the unprecedented step of holding a joint session of the Legislature for a purpose other than to receive the Executive's State of the State message.

The Governor, Senate Majority Leader and Assembly Speaker each spoke to the state's legislators, elected officials and members of the judiciary to reassure them about New York State's response, and to pledge to put aside the partisan differences that have increasingly divided them over the course of the past year in order to deal with the shared tragedy as a united community.

As evidence of that determination, the Legislature passed a largely symbolic joint resolution condemning the attacks. But in a less public—but far more telling—gesture, the Legislature approved some \$53 billion in reappropriations which were widely regarded as the only remaining leverage the Legislature held over the Governor in the protracted and ongoing supplemental budget battle.

On the day Rosh Hashanah was to begin at sundown, the Legislature once again returned to Albany on an emergency basis to pass the Governor's package of anti-terrorism bills that had until then languished in legislative obscurity. Clearly, the focus in Albany has been on New York City and responding to the World Trade Center crisis.

Nevertheless, as New Yorkers returned to their lives, those in education returned to their questions about the holes left by the baseline budget and whether the Legislature would fill them. While at press time, these issues appeared far from the minds of Legislators and staff, there is nevertheless information to convey about each of the issues remaining open.

The fundamental issue undermining the resolution of a supplemental budget had been whether the state's economy could support large increases in education spending. Absent sufficient revenues, the Legislature and Executive were left with unpalatable choices about which aid programs to cut. As school aid has become almost exclusively focused

in recent years on reimbursement and categorical programs, any cut essentially means renegeing on previous aid promises.

In the baseline budget passed by the Legislature, no money exists for certain bilingual programs, and reimbursements for BOCES and special education don't reflect increased expenditures. Programs to support teacher salaries and professional development were also axed. To find money to fund these programs, the Executive proposed slowing the growth of the \$500+ million building aid program by stretching out borrowing from 20 to 30 years. As evidence that such a move was unnecessary, the Assembly in particular had pointed to the massive reserve funds the state had built up.

The stock market's 700+ point plunge and the mammoth anticipated costs of rebuilding New York City have intensified anxiety about the economy. The Executive's proposed change to building aid amortizations was dealt a blow by strong opposition from legislators in

Westchester. Together these events have polarized the cost/economy issue further. Also, Senate Majority Leader Bruno has stated that supplementation is pointless, since most school districts have already issued tax bills and therefore lack the vehicle to pass on additional revenues to taxpayers.

Yet there are still reasons to expect a supplemental budget to resurface. Fifty percent of districts surveyed by the NYS School Boards Association chose to leave revenue holes in anticipation of a supplemental budget. In addition, abolishing the special education formula and the linkage to actual costs or numbers of children will surely be more harmful than the current formula, which had already provoked criticism from Federal auditors. Finally, tremendous political fallout would result from cutting teacher salaries and professional development monies just as the teacher shortage in the cities is reaching critical proportions. Discussion of a supplemental budget likely won't resume until October at the earliest because of the Jewish holidays and the rescheduled primary election.





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Professional Development Opportunities

Kick Off with November Superintendents' Academy

Political Leadership is the theme of the **Superintendents' Academy** slated for Friday, November 3 at seven locations across the state.

The session will focus on the competition for power and scarce resources and the management of conflict. Program brochures and registration information are in the mail. Registration deadline is Friday, October 26.

The **Mid-Winter Conference** will be held January 13-15 at The Desmond in Albany. Anyone interested in proposing a concurrent session can send the proposed title, names of presenters and audio-visual needs to the Council offices. A committee will review proposals and choose the sessions to be



presented. Additional conference information will follow.

The **Pathways to Leadership** for Women and Minorities Committee is seeking nominations for their annual scholarship.

The \$2500 award, to be presented at the Mid-Winter Conference, is underwritten by Welliver McGuire, Inc. and NYSCOSS. Brochures and nomination forms have been mailed to superintendents and universities. A nominee must be a woman or minority educator who is enrolled in a graduate study program through which the School District Administrator Certificate or the Doctoral Degree may be awarded. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, November 2,

2001. Interested individuals may independently apply. Visit the NYSCOSS Web site for more information.

NYSCOSS 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 over 460 scholarships worth nearly \$1.5 million. Materials have been sent to all high school guidance offices. They may be photocopied, or additional copies may be downloaded and printed from www.aasa.org/discover.htm. Additional applications may also be requested from NYSCOSS. Members are urged to promote the Discover Card scholarship in their districts.

2001 Delaney Scholarship Awarded

Teachers College Student Wins \$2,000 Award

The Distinguished Service Committee has selected **Joyce Bisso** as the winner of the 2001 Raymond R. Delaney Annual Scholarship.

Currently Principal of George W. Hewlett High School in the Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD, Ms. Bisso has previously served as Acting Principal and Assistant Principal.

Joyce began her education career as a teacher of English in the Jericho UFSD. She was nominated for SAANYS 1998 Distinguished Assistant Principal Award, honored by Cornell University at the Merrill Presidential Scholars Convocation in 1994, cited by the University of Chicago as an influential High School Educator, and is the recipient of the

Norbert David Serota Fellowship for Long Island Educators.

Ms. Bisso is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Organization and Leadership at Columbia University Teachers College. Joyce has pursued her goal of becoming a superintendent with determination and resolve while raising three children.

In endorsing Ms. Bisso for the award, Gibran Majdalany, Deputy Director of the Teachers College Inquiry Program states, "I have no doubt that she will excel as a superintendent in the future".

Ms. Bisso will be presented with the \$2000 Delaney Scholarship at the NYSCOSS Annual Banquet Monday, October 1, during the Fall Conference.

New Assistant Director Joins Council Staff

Tina Hogle Brings Background in Human Services

Executive Director Robert Loretan announces the newest member of the NYSCOSS team. **Tina Hogle** has joined the Council staff as an Assistant Director.

She will be working with Associate Director Kelly Masline on professional development activities and will be responsible for the corporate sponsorship program.

Tina worked for the past two years as Coordinator of Community Relations and Intake for Eddy SeniorCare, a program for frail elderly people. She was formerly Director for DayBreak, an adult day care program and also worked a year as a social worker at KingsWay Manor Adult Home.

During 12 years that Tina spent at home raising her children, she per-

formed a variety of jobs, including writing for an academic test development company, performing various functions in her local school district and running a desktop publishing venture with a friend. The publishing experience will come in handy when Tina takes over production of The Councilgram each month.

Tina has an associate's degree in human services from Hudson Valley Community College and a bachelor's degree in social work from SUNY Brockport. She has begun work toward a master's degree in public administration. Originally from Colonie, NY, she now lives in Rotterdam with her husband and three children.

Members can meet and welcome Tina at the Fall Conference.

Council Executive Director on the Mend

Bob Loretan Recovering Nicely Following Cardiac Procedure

Friends and colleagues of the Council's Executive Director, Robert L. Loretan, will be pleased to learn that Dr. Loretan's cardiac surgery on August 15 appears to have been a complete success, and he has weathered all of the post-surgical complications.

Bob has returned home, where he

continues to rebuild his strength in the company of his wife, Ellen.

The family has asked well wishers to refrain from sending flowers or gifts. However, cards are welcome and may be sent to the Loretans' home in Western NY: 16 Honeysuckle Way, East Amherst, NY 14051.

NYSCOSS Web Site, E-mail Are Back Online

Those attempting to visit the NYSCOSS Web site or send e-mail to the Council may have had difficulty several weeks ago, as the NYSCOSS Internet connection was disabled for several days.

The Council has relocated the hosting of its Web site to a provider with multiple

redundant connections to the Internet, and the site is again operational.

If an e-mail message was returned to you as undeliverable, please send it again. Although e-mail to the Council may have been returned with messages indicating that the address was wrong, our e-mail addresses remain the same.

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- Arlynn Brody
Principal
PS 87, New York City

Look for the session at NYSCOSS 2001 Annual Fall Conference

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Hear first-hand accounts from Hudson City and New York City schools, where students have been using Fast ForWord for two years now. The session will be led by a Principal and Federal Program Director from these

districts, who will be summarizing the results their students have achieved in reading and academic performance since using these brain-based programs.

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Clinton Search
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Dennisport, MA 02639-0582

\$120,000
Enr: 1,800
Reply by:
10/13/01

HORSEHEADS CSD

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

\$Competitive
Enr: 4,500
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

ONONDAGA CSD

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

\$95,000-\$105,000
Enr: 1,128
Reply by:
9/30/01

ORANGE-ULSTER BOCES

Martin Ruglis, District Supt.
Ulster County BOCES
175 Route 32N
New Paltz, NY 12561-1034

\$Negotiable
Enr: N/A
Reply by:
10/1/01

OTSEGO-NORTHERN CATSKILLS BOCES

Lawrence A. Kiley, District Supt.
Broome-Tioga BOCES
435 Glenwood Road
Binghamton, NY 13905-1699

\$120,000 range
Enr: 12,000-14,000
Reply by:
10/1/01

ROCKLAND BOCES

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

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

SOUTH COUNTRY CSD

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

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

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

WHITESBORO CSD

Steven J. Kalies, District Supt.
Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES
Box 70, 4747 Middle Settlement Road
New Hartford, NY 13413-0070

\$120,000-\$135,000
Enr: 4,000
Reply by:
9/28/01

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

Executive Director: Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, Salem, OR. 2,500 members. By: 10/12/01. \$110,000-\$114,000.

Superintendent: Livingston Educational Service Agency, Howell, MI. Enr: 27,199. By: 10/1/01. \$Based on qualifications.

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

Superintendent: East Bridgewater Public Schools, East Bridgewater, MA. Enr: 2,471. By: 10/22/01. \$105,000-\$110,000.

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

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Atlantic City School District, Atlantic City, NJ. Enr: 7,000. By: 9/30/01. \$105,000.

Middle-Upper Elementary School Principal: Holmdel Township School District, Monmouth County, NJ. Enr: 1,100. By: ASAP. \$Highly competitive.

Chief School Officer Appointments

- David Abraham** I., Mount Markham 8/10/01
- Carol Boyce** Odessa-Montour 10/15/01
High School Principal at Hudson City School District
- Gerald J. Carozza** I., Questar III 10/1/01
D.S. of Washington-Saratoga-Warr.-Ham.-Ess. BOCES
- Wendell Chu** Fire Island 8/14/01
From Three Village CSD
- John J. Eckhardt** A., Pittsford 9/4/01
- Bruce Frasier** Lockport City 8/23/01
High School Principal in the district
- Paul Hashem** Lackawanna City 5/01
Formerly Acting Superintendent in the district
- Robert E. Leiby** Manchester-Shortsville 5/1/01
Director of Instructional Services
- Gary Loewenberg** I., Westchester 2 BOCES
- Winfield McChord, Jr.** St. Mary's School 9/1/01
From the American School for the Deaf in Connecticut
- Donald J. McKenzie** I., Orange-Ulster BOCES
D.S. of Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES
- Robert Parry** I., Hauppauge 6/1/01
From Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- RoseMary Stark** Pine Bush 10/18/01
Assistant Superintendent in the district
- Nelson Wellspeak** I., Tully 5/1/01
Interim Superintendent

A. = Acting I. = Interim

Retirements

- Everett Larrabee** Pittsford 8/31/01
- Domenic Leone** Pine Bush 10/7/01
- Keith Reester, Sr.** Horseheads 2/1/02
- Mark Schissler** South Country 6/02

Other NYS Administrative Positions

(Contact District For Further Information)

- Business Administrator:** Delhi CSD. Enr: 1,152.
By: ASAP. \$Competitive.
- Middle/High School Principal:** Hunter-Tannersville CSD.
Enr: 300. By: 10/12/01. \$70,000-\$80,000.
- High School Principal:** Locust Valley CSD. Enr: N/A.
By: ASAP. \$112,876-\$137,730.
- Business Administrator:** Wilson CSD. Enr: N/A.
By: 9/28/01. \$Based on experience.
- Supervisor of Special Education (2 Positions):** Otsego-Northern Catskills BOCES. Enr: N/A. \$Based on experience.
- Director of Instructional Services:** Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 10/12/01. \$65,000-\$85,000.
- Assistant Superintendent for Business:** Port Jervis City School District. Enr: 3,500. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.
- Junior-Senior High School Principal:** Voorheesville CSD. Enr: 1,300. By: 10/12/01. \$75,000-\$85,000.
- School Business Administrator:** Ichabod Crane CSD.
Enr: 2,350. By: ASAP. \$70,000.
- Grades 5-12 Executive Principal:** Byron-Bergen CSD.
Enr: 800. By: 9/28/01. \$75,000-\$90,000.
- Human Resources Manager:** Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES.
Enr: N/A. By: 10/12/01. \$Competitive.
- Associate Principal:** Windsor CSD. Enr: N/A.
By: 10/19/01. \$N/A.
- 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.
- Director of Instruction Services:** Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington BOCES. Enr: 17 districts. By: 10/12/01. \$65,000-\$85,000.
- Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Management Services:** Springville-Griffith Institute CSD. Enr: N/A. By: 11/8/01. \$Based on experience.
- Director of Professional Development:** Orange-Ulster BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 10/15/01. \$90,000s.
- High School Principal:** East Meadow UFSD. Enr: 1,600.
By: ASAP. \$Competitive.
- Elementary Principal:** Valley Stream UFSD #13. Enr: 600.
By: ASAP. \$Competitive.
- Elementary Principal:** Thousand Island CSD. Enr: 1,250.
By: 10/1/01. \$60,000s.

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Klumpp Receives Council's Highest Award

Retired Superintendent Earns Distinguished Service Award

David Gee, Chairman of the Distinguished Service Committee, announced that Gordon Klumpp has been selected to receive the 2001 Distinguished Service Award, the Council's highest honor.

He began his 37-½-year career in education with 14 years as a social studies and physical education teacher at Greene CSD. Gordon then worked 6

years as a High School Principal at Groton, before serving 18 years there as Superintendent until his retirement in January 2001.

For the Council, was a member of the House of Delegates and Commissioner's Advisory Council.

Gordon is active in his community as well, as a member of his Rotary Club, church and

village Planning Board.

Gordon's wife Sandra is a beautician and photographer. He has two sons: Kevin, who works in computers; and Brian, a surveyor and civil engineer. Education is a family business for Gordon, whose father, mother, brothers, niece and nephews all worked or work as teachers.

Five New Yorkers Garner National Awards

Universities Cite Superintendents for Fostering Leadership

The University Council for Educational Administration, headquartered at the University of Missouri at Columbia, named 21 administrators as recipients of the UCEA **Excellence in Educational Leadership Award**.

The award recognizes school administrators who have made significant contributions to the improvement of administrator preparation. This year, 5 of the 21 national awards went to New York superintendents.



Excellence in Leadership: Dr. Barbara Jackson of Fordham University presents the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award to Ronald D. Valenti, Superintendent of Valley Stream CHSD.

Congratulations to **William J. Brosnan**, Northport-East Northport UFSD working with Hofstra University; **Vincent J. Coppola**, retired from West Seneca CSD and working with SUNY Buffalo; **Mary Ellen Freeley**, Glenn Cove City School District, working with St. John's University; **J. Briggs McAndrews**, Niskayuna CSD working with SUNY Albany; and **Ronald D. Valenti**, Valley Stream CHSD, working with Fordham University.

Beloved District Superintendent Remembered

Daniel Edward Maher passed away May 5, 2001 in Naples, FL. Under Mr. Maher's leadership as Superintendent and then District Superintendent, the Champlain Central School grew into a school system, which later evolved into the Northeastern Clinton Central School District.

He is remembered by the district's current Superintendent, Christopher deGrandpré, as an individual dearly loved by students, teachers, administrators,

communities and his colleagues statewide.

Mr. Maher was active in his community in the Knights of Columbus, Clinton County School Masters Association, Interscholastic League, Chamber of Commerce, Champlain

Library Association and various World War II community leadership efforts.

Scholarships were established in his name at Northeast Clinton Central School and Hobart College.

In Memoriam

America Focuses on Tragedy *Attack Cuts Short Bush's Education Tour*

Parent Involvement Favored Over Tests

The American public believes "high parental involvement" is the best indicator that a school is providing a high-quality education, according to a recent poll conducted by AASA.

"Children who are happy and like school" was selected as the second-best indicator. Only 18.8% selected "high scores on statewide tests" as the best indicator.

The 33rd annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll on the public's attitudes toward the public schools reinforces AASA's findings. According to that survey, 66% of the public believes that standardized tests should be used to guide instruction, while only 30% believe such tests should be used to measure student learning.

AASA supports the use of test scores in school accountability systems and believes they help account for the growing confidence in public schools. The public understands the need to measure student performance, but also strongly believes that the ultimate success of local schools must be determined by more than test scores.

President Bush's visit to a Florida elementary school was cut short by the **tragic events of September 11**. The visit was part of a two-day swing through Florida to generate support among members of Congress for the President's education bill.

Schools nationwide coped with the effects of the September 11 tragedies in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. Administrators and teachers conveyed messages of reassurance to children and parents, seeking to inform, yet avoid alarm, according to reports in various national newspapers. Districts made available counseling services, discussion groups and support networks to assist students in coping with the horror of the situation.

Primary and secondary school teachers and administrators are invited to apply for the 2002 **Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program**. The program aims to increase understanding between Japan and the U.S. by exposing American teachers to the educational system and culture of Japan. Those interested may request a 2002 application packet by calling the Institute of International Education at 1-888-527-2636 or by visiting the IIE website at www.iie.org/pgms/fmf/. Application deadline is Tuesday, December 18.

The Los Angeles Times reported on September 9 that **art education** is making a come-

back in Los Angeles schools. Contributing to this change are new studies supporting a link between art instruction and achievement in other subjects such as math. In October, Americans for the Arts, a New York-based advocacy organization, will launch a national campaign to champion art education.

Cleveland, OH is questioning whether its **voucher program** is providing a real alternative to urban schools for inner-city children, according to *The Plain Dealer*, September 9. An analysis of Cleveland's school voucher program by the Cleveland-based Policy Matters Ohio shows that just one in five students in the program came from Cleveland public schools. Voucher supporters disagree with the study's interpretation of the numbers.

Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist refused on September 12 to stop Virginia from requiring students to start their day with a **minute of silence**, the Associated Press reported September 13. Rehnquist said the Appeals Court "found ample evidence that [the Virginia law] has a clear secular purpose, namely, to provide a moment for quiet reflection in the wake of high-profile instances of violence in our public schools." Reports received by the American Civil Liberties Union of teachers encouraging prayer during the minute of silence could be the subject of future challenges.

AASA to Meet in San Diego

134th National Conference on Education

The AASA National Conference on Education will take place February 15-17, in San Diego, CA. Hotel registration forms were sent out in August.

Registrants 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.

The **New York State Recep-**

tion will be held on Friday, February 15. Details will follow.

The **Superintendent of the Year Award**, sponsored by AASA and ServiceMaster, will be presented at the conference. Applications for Superintendent of the Year are due at AASA by September 30.

The **2001 Women Administrators Conference** takes place November 9-11, 2001 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel/Pentagon City Arlington, VA.. For more information about AASA conferences, visit www.aasa.org.

Delegates Selected

The following NYSCOSS members will represent New York at the AASA Delegate Assembly on February 14, 2002 in San Diego, CA.

William H. Johnson
Superintendent
Rockville Centre UFSD

Roberta A. Gerold
Superintendent,
Farmingdale UFSD

Marcia Schwarz
Assistant Superintendent
Sullivan BOCES

Albert F. Inserra
Superintendent of Schools
Port Washington UFSD

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

AASA Assists with ADA Compliance

Association Supports Award Program for Young Volunteers

AASA has created new kits to help schools comply with restroom sign requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The kits include signs with tactile text and symbols and Braille lettering, mounting materials and placement specifications.

To obtain a kit, count the number of restrooms, broken down by type: "Men", "Women", "Boys", "Girls" or "Restroom". Also let AASA staff know which signs are for handicapped-accessible restrooms.

Then call toll-free 1-877-ADA-KITS (232-5487), or send a purchase order by fax (847) 568-9485, or mail to ADA KIT—AASA Restroom Project, 56

Salem Lane, Evanston, IL 60203. Cost is \$20 per sign, plus \$9.50 shipping and handling (for up to 10 signs).

Community Spirit Awards Available to Young Volunteers

As events in New York City and Washington have resulted in a wave of volunteerism, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards offers schools a way to recognize their most community-minded students.

Application forms for the 2002 awards program will be available through October in high schools and middle schools throughout the U.S. They may also be obtained by visiting www.prudential.com/

community/spirit or by calling 1-888-450-9961.

Students fill out applications and submit them to their principal. The school then selects its top youth volunteer, who advances to state-level judging. The top middle level and high school candidate in each state win \$1,000 awards, engraved silver medallions and a trip to Washington, D.C. There, a selection panel co-chaired by two U.S. senators will name America's top ten youth volunteers.

AASA supports the program, which is sponsored by the Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.



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Section 415 Limits on Benefits Raised

No TRS Members Will See Benefits Cut Due to §415

The Federal Government recently approved New York State's application for an "excess benefit plan" which will enable NYS Teachers' Retirement System retirees to receive retirement benefits in excess of the Federal limits contained in Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code (and listed in a table on the NYSTRS website). As a result, no superintendent or other NYSTRS member will see their benefits diminished as a result of §415.

Members who had some benefits withheld in anticipation of the approval of NYS' plan will receive all of their withheld benefits both retroactively and prospectively starting with the November 30 check.

Dollar limits under Section 401(a)17 of the IRC

have been increased for the upcoming year (starting July 1, 2002) from \$170,000 to \$200,000.

State Pension Systems Buying Stock

State Comptroller H. Carl McCall announced on the day that the stock market reopened that the State Employees Retirement System, of which he is the sole trustee, would be investing several billions of dollars into the stock market weakened by the events of September 11, 2001.

Our conversations with NYS Teachers Retirement System indicated that they too would have a strong "buy" bias for securities. Together, the funds represent nearly \$200 billion in assets.

U.S. Lawmakers Vow to Continue ESEA Work

As the Councilgram went to press, the September 20 session of the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee was debating education spending for fiscal year 2002 (school year 2001-02).

Meanwhile, leaders of a House-Senate conference committee vowed to continue work on the renewal of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in spite of the September 11 terrorist attack.

The initiative tops the list of legislative priorities as Washington turns its attention back to domestic matters.

Among the major issues contained in the bill are mandatory full funding of IDEA, inclusion of Straight A's block grants, and administration of new private tutoring programs in failing schools.

Visit the NYSCOSS Web site for updates on federal funding and ESEA status.

Schools, State Work in Concert *(Continued from page 2)*

that schools should carefully document any needs in order to draw these funds down.

- ◆ SED has asked for names of retired superintendents who would be willing to volunteer their time to help affected schools in NYC. Please contact NYSCOSS offices.
- ◆ **The State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) has indicated that it has become difficult to manage the massive flow of hard goods and supplies to New York City. SEMO requests that our communities send no additional hard goods at this time.**
- ◆ However, there is real need for emergency funds for the students at the four public schools near the WTC. These students were evacuated

without any of their books or supplies and are now preparing to double up at schools further uptown. District 2 Superintendent Shelley Harwayne asks that people please contribute to these schools—for necessities like paper, pencils, books etc.—by writing checks made out to any of the following:

- ◆ School Funds: Public School 89
- ◆ School Funds: Public School 234
- ◆ School Funds: Public School 150
- ◆ School Funds: Intermediate School 89

Donations should be sent to: Shelley Harwayne, Superintendent, 333 7th Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001, who will then distribute the funds to each of the affected principals.

CALENDAR

2001-2002

Fall Conference
Sept. 30-Oct. 2 Saratoga

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

Executive Committee Meeting
Jan. 31 Albany

Commissioner's Advisory Council
Feb. 1 Albany

Mid-Winter Conference
Jan. 13-15 Albany

Commissioner's Advisory Council
Feb. 1 Albany

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

Executive Committee Meeting/CAC
Mar. 7 & 8 Albany



NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

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ALBANY, NY 12207-1002