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CNY BUSINESS PARTNERS INSIGHTS

CENTRAL NEW YORK
SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

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Friends:

Another busy school year is coming to a close. We would like to take this opportunity to give a big shout-out to our business partners who generously support public education. They play a vital role in fulfilling a core CNYSBA objective of providing professional and leadership development programming that helps school board members meet and exceed the growing responsibilities they have for public education in their communities.

Enjoy your summer and stay tuned for next year's highlights...

Charlie Borgognoni

Keep up with critical topics at Ferrara Fiorenza PC 2018 School Law Conference

It is important for school board members, superintendents, principals, and administrators to be informed about the latest developments on workplace harassment, labor contract negotiations, cyber issues & social media, and employee absenteeism.



[More information and registration details](#)



Strategies for enhancing school security by Nicolette Havrish

As I write this, my heart is heavy with breaking news of yet another school shooting involving multiple fatalities. This time, the location is a high school in Santa Fe, Texas. As design professionals with experience in educational design, we know well that school administrators, leaders, teachers, students, and the community at large are in search of answers before and after these events occur and ways to mitigate it happening in their school next. I wish that I could offer a panacea to solve the issue, but the reality is that the solutions are as varied as the needs and desires of each individual district.

The FBI has indicated that "youth violence is one of the greatest crime problems faced in the United States" (Mary Ellen O'Toole, 1999). In addition to the process and procedural changes that many districts are putting in place, there are changes to the built environment that can be assessed and addressed through capital and facilities improvement projects.

One of the most common questions I get from the public is "Why don't they just put metal detectors in every school?" While this "hardening" of schools is a common gut reaction, it may not be desirable to districts which desire openness, community connectedness, and the creation of a welcoming learning environment for those who inhabit the District facilities. The [Partner Alliance for Safer Schools](#) (PASS) has published a list of school security guidelines that they recommend to districts considering ways to improve their school's safety. There are also recent building and site design trends which have emerged from learning across different market sectors such as military facility design strategies.

The first step for clients seeking to improve school security is to have a qualified architecture and engineering firm conduct a facility assessment to identify which strategies "fit" your needs. This process includes discussions with the district to prioritize concerns based on different security risk levels, district strategic and security plans, budgets, and schedules. Assessments typically include inspections of all levels of access to the school from the property limits, landscape and parking, down to the building perimeter and interiors.

While the scope of this brief article cannot cover all the potential strategies each district might consider, some of the strategies which have become ubiquitous include electronic access at exterior building and site perimeters, video surveillance, secured vestibules at entries, classroom barricading options, and glazing films. These are all valid considerations for districts that offer less perception of "hardening" than providing metal detectors at all entrances. There are also strategies which offer more aesthetically pleasing solutions that might not be as obvious and fall more in line with district mission statements to be engaged and open to the communities in which they reside. These include defensive landscape design, enhanced visibility throughout the site and building campus, signage, lighting, and more.

There is no one-size fits all solution to enhancing school security, nor are facility improvements the only considerations that come into play regarding security enhancement within a district. Effective security design requires an open dialogue between licensed design professionals who have in-depth knowledge of the options available to meet each district's needs and clients who can communicate the goals they are trying to achieve by improving this important part of their facilities and campus life. We hope that some of the ideas presented herein have helped shed light on the possibilities for improving school security and safety. It is possible to achieve school security enhancements without a visible hardening of school facilities to maintain the open, creative learning environments we have all come to love and appreciate in our educational facilities.

SEI Design Group: Transforming yesterday's learning spaces

SEI Design Group, along with Gates Chili Central School District and Corbett, Inc., hosted a luncheon at the Lost Dog Café in Binghamton for area school district representatives on how technology, furniture and architecture dovetail together to create environments suitable for collaborative learning.



The presentation focused on the tools required to implement a district-wide digital conversion, the furniture that will supplement a digital culture and the building changes that will help provide students with spaces that they can thrive in.

[Learn more about SEI projects](#)

CNYSBA held Governance Training for 37 new school board members



Newly elected school board members are required by law to complete financial oversight and governance training within their first year on the board. The governance training was held on June 6 and 9.

We thank our business partners below for taking the time to share their expertise. In addition to their financial support, they also play a vital role in the quality of our mandated trainings.

Don Budmen and Eric Wilson from Ferrara

Fiorenza PC covered legal/ethical responsibilities of board members as well as the role of board members in personnel issues. A special segment was dedicated to child abuse reporting requirements in an educational setting.

Bethany Centrone and Kate Reid from Bond, Schoeneck and King presented about confidentiality and effective external communication.

Dr. Rick Timbs from the Statewide School Finance Consortium shared insights about data-driven decision making.

CNYSBA Annual Meeting featured internationally acclaimed education expert

It was great to see so many of you at our Annual Meeting on May 30th. We were especially thrilled with the presentation of Grant Lichtman, a renowned education speaker and author, which was made possible in partnership with the Joint Management Team of our BOCES. We hope his thoughts sparked some ideas and conversations on how you may be able to "move the rock" in your districts. And Congratulations again to our 2018 Board Members of Achievement Mike McCole, Peter Bush, Julie Boles, Tom Taylor, and Casey Browse for their well deserved recognition.



Watch your Inbox for our Survey

At the end of our programming year, we'd like to get some feedback again on how we were doing, which services and events you found valuable, and how we can serve your needs even better.

Be on the lookout for an email link shortly.

We thank you already in advance for your time and participation.

Meet all our partners

