



CNYSBA NEWS

Train, Empower, Advocate, and Mobilize for Students

What Makes a Good School Board Member?

Although the legal requirements for board membership are few, qualifications for effective service are many. Some of these include:

The board member should have a broad background of knowledge and experience. The details of school operations demand sensitivity, awareness, intelligence and honesty.

The board member should be tolerant and free of prejudice. It is imperative that the board member understand the needs of all children.

The board member should be willing to invest the many hours that are necessary to fulfill required duties.

The board member should be able to listen for a real consensus rather than hear only a few loud voices in the community.

The board member should understand that education today is very complex and that simplistic approaches will not adequately address issues.



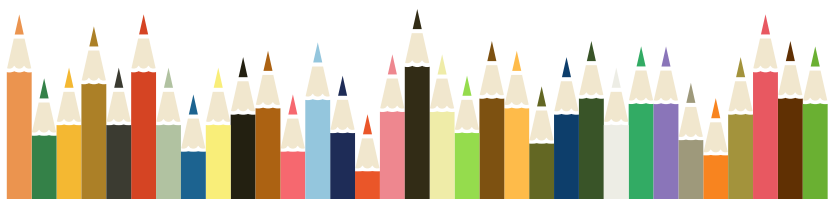
Let's Look Ahead a Bit

By Dr. Rick Timbs

As of this writing the state budget has not yet been approved but there's still much we can do in school districts:

Over the next month school officials will be more aware of fund balances toward the end of the school year. This gives each school district an opportunity to examine their reserves, future known and potential liabilities as they prepare for long-range planning.

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Those school districts that will experience the last “installment” of Foundation Aid that brings them to “fully funded” status must be aware that any significant increase of Foundation Aid into the 2023-24 fiscal year may not result in a similar increase into 2024-25 and beyond. Please note that while it may appear that all school districts will achieve “save-harmless” status by the end of the 2023-24 school year, a formula, as flawed as it is, continues to run. For many hundreds of school districts, absent any significant change in the current Foundation Aid formula, the continuation current major inflation trends, large changes in demographic or wealth measures, school districts will likely be “stuck” with similar Foundation Aid amounts going forward. It is hoped that a Blue-Ribbon Commission can make the amount

and distribution of Foundation Aid to be substantially more adequate, and equitable, in the future to match the growing expectations for, and mission of, school districts. However, there is not a lot of time to make thoughtful changes to the formula aimed at real improvements with such a narrow window to affect Foundation Aid by 2024-25.

School districts should be aware that the use of the new CRSSA and ARPA federal grants is waning and the ability to use these funds for specific district initiatives, capital project work or the enhancements to fund balance will soon come to an end.

School districts may wish to continue to employ staff hired with the use of CRSSA and ARPA funds and the long-range implications for budget should be revisited especially as some school districts have experienced increases in contractual financial obligations with recent contract enhancements.

Long-range plans must include big-ticket items such as:

Transportation systems- including buses and/or contract busing and leases. This includes each school district’s plans for the transition to zero-emission buses and the need for transportation facility upgrades to power and maintain these buses. School districts must begin the purchase of zero-emission buses beginning in 2027 and have transitioned their entire fleet by 2035.

If a district contracts for transportation, the cost of these contracts will increase significantly.

Late New York State Budget Could Negatively Impact School Districts

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The New York State budget is nearly three weeks late and that could have negative effects on school districts across the state.

The legislature and Governor are at odds over bail reform and housing, among other issues, according to state legislators.

Meanwhile, school budget votes are now less than a month away on May 16th, and experts say it's important that the state budget is complete before school district's put their budgets up for a vote.

Dr. Rick Timbs, Executive Director of the Statewide School Finance Consortium, says that he expects that the state budget will be done before the school budget vote on May 16th. However, "it's likely that they won't be done before districts present their budgets to the public."

However, Timbs says "this year it's not as much of a problem. We know that Foundation Aid will be fully paid, for instance" and districts will receive at least a 3% increase based on last year's Foundation base. "All in all, the districts should have a good estimate of what they're looking at."

None the less, districts have certain milestones they need to meet as part of the budget calendar which makes it important for the state budget to be complete before the school budget comes up for its vote on May 16th.

Read complete story at WIBX950

This will be expensive; not just the buses but the transportation facility upgrades as well.

Analyze the impact of this mandate on your budget, your debt service, your reserves, your fund balance, and the tax cap.

While the state has indicated that bus purchases and the improvements to transportation facilities are aid eligible, I continue to be concerned about the local share of the costs and the ability of the state to ratchet up the considerable sums of transportation and building aid to support this mandate.

As I like to remind school districts:

- The financial health of the school district into the future will determine its programs and the level of academic success of the children under its charge. It will also secure the relationship between the school district and the community it depends upon for support.

- The financial condition of the school district is the gas that runs the school district engine, and the price of gas is escalating fast everywhere.

- We need to develop long-range plans through thoughtful and careful analysis of not just past trends but what we can discern from our current situation that will inform us about future trends. The way these new trends materialize will determine the financial health of the school district in the future.

The statewide budget and board member vote is Tuesday, May 16, 2023



2023 CNYSBA ANNUAL DINNER

Date: May 24th, 2023

Time: 5:00pm

Cost: \$50.00 per person

*Location: The Lodge
4355 State Street Skaneateles Falls, NY 13153*

Pre-Register Here:

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Visit the New SSFC Website.

www.SSFCdata.org

Get the latest data and school finance information from Dr. Rick Timbs.

The Statewide School Finance Consortium (SSFC) is an organization of more than 400 New York State public school districts whose mission is to bring equity to the distribution of New York State educational aid. SSFC membership is largely comprised of school districts from average and low-wealth communities that receive a disproportionate share of state funding in comparison to high-wealth regions of New York. The reform of the state aid process will help ensure that all of New York's children receive the same educational opportunities regardless of the wealth or location of their community.



Have your students or district accomplished something special that you would like to share? We would love to feature them in our newsletter.

Email us: Ashley@cnysba.org



SCSD Students Visit Albany for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute

It was her junior year in high school, and Nottingham student Natalia Arocho, now a senior, said she had been struggling to find her niche.

“I felt like I was kind of whitewashed,” she explained. “I wasn’t Hispanic enough for some people, but I am Hispanic! When I heard about the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute, I wanted to join because I felt really disconnected from my culture.”

The Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PRHYLI) brings together a delegation of Hispanic students from across New York State to help students develop their leadership skills, interact with positive role models of Puerto Rican and Hispanic heritage, develop knowledge of the state legislative process, and more. Students are invited to come together with their area ‘delegation’ for a series of eight full-day sessions, where they learn about legislation and the legislative process, conduct research, and of course, make friends and get inspired! At the end of the Institute, all 8 delegations from across the state come together in Albany, where they participate in a mock assembly in the New York State Legislature.

“Last year, we couldn’t go to Albany to visit the State Legislature because of COVID,” Natalia explained. “The Mock Assembly was virtual. But they did host a Gala event to wrap up the experience. I remember walking into the hotel ballroom and hearing the Latin music and dancing with people I didn’t even know... I loved it! This experience created core memories that I’ll remember forever, so I knew I had to participate again this year.”

This year, a group of about 200 students from across the state participated in the Institute, including five from the SCSD – three PSLA at Fowler students and two from Nottingham. They enjoyed breakout sessions and workshops where they got to know each other and had meaningful discussions.

“We had debates about if the media is exploiting the Latino community, if there is enough Hispanic representation in government, if immigrants should have representation in court, if there should be more diversity officers in school, and so much more,” Natalia said. “I learned how the whole legislative process can be really tedious. We learned how to argue for both sides of an issue, and how you can have a really good point and not get called on to express it. There aren’t a ton of opportunities like this for Hispanics, and there should be. It really made me develop an interest in possibly pursuing political science!”

PSLA senior Gerardo Becerra enjoyed representing Assemblyman Christopher Friend at the Mock Assembly in Albany. One issue he struggled with? The Assemblyman is a Republican, and many of his policies ran contrary to Gerardo’s beliefs.

“Through this experience, I was challenged to take on his positions on things and argue for them,” he shared. “It was difficult, but I learned to work through it. It was a good experience to go through. We honed our ability to read legislation and legal documents, and we learned how bills move through to a vote. But my favorite part was having the opportunity to be in touch with Latino people from other areas. It was nice seeing that there are Latinos in other areas of Central New York that I had assumed would be largely white. We’re not usually given opportunities to celebrate our heritage, so it was great to be there, speaking in Spanish and celebrating our culture. It gives me hope for the future. I’m so glad that other students will be able to experience this – that other Latinos will be able to experience how important it is to be connected to your culture.”

PSLA junior Maria Ortiz agreed that the experience helped expand her knowledge of government – but said the experience was about so much more than that.

“I didn’t know much about politics before I joined the Institute, but I really like debating now!” she said. “It was really hard to read a bill when we started, but they helped us break it down so we could understand. There are so many rules in the legislative debate process – for example, you have to talk through the Speaker, or you’ll be called out of order! It feels like the world doesn’t showcase the Hispanic culture, so as kids, sometimes we don’t feel it’s important. This program really showed us that our culture matters. It helped show us that we should be open minded and be comfortable with ourselves.”

Puerto Rican and Hispanic students who are interested in participating in next year’s PRHYLI Institute should contact their school counselor – juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply. We’re proud of these students for becoming #SCSDCivicReady while celebrating their heritage!



The Central New York School Boards Association offers all trainings required for newly elected board members

Did you know that all newly elected school board members are **required** to take Governance Training, Child Abuse Reporting in an Education Setting and Finance Training within their first year? If elected, start your term learning and understanding everything you need to know to be a successful board member by taking the trainings offered by CNYSBA

The Central New York School Boards Association is offering all three State Mandated Courses.
All classes must be registered through your District Clerk

Governance Training

(Two day class - both classes are required to obtain your certificate)

Governance Training is being offered in June

Thursday, June 8th, 2023

6:00p - 9:30p

Saturday, June 10th, 2023

9:00a - 3:00p



Child Abuse Reporting in an Educational Setting (Takes place within the Governance Training)

Thursday, June 8th, 2023

Finance Training (tentatively)

Saturday, June 24th, 2023

8:30 am - 3:00 pm



2023 VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE FORUMS MULTI-DAY SCHEDULE

from Central New York School
Boards Association and
Statewide School Finance
Consortium

CNYSBA and SSFC would like to invite you to register for any of our upcoming 2023 Legislative Forums. These events are FULLY REMOTE and will be 90 mins in length and consist of a presentation from Guest Speaker Dr. Rick Timbs, President of Statewide School Finance Consortium (SSFC). Also, the event will include time for Questions and Answers with your local Legislatures.

*Did You
Miss
These
Legislative
Forums?*

*Click on
the links
below
to watch
the video.*

[OCM BOCES 2/4](#)

[CAYUGA-
ONONDAGA
BOCES 2/11](#)

[TST BOCES 2/11](#)

You Do What for a Living?

**Watch our video segment, You Do What
for a Living? to learn about Alivia Allen -
a Syracuse-area Iron Worker.
(Click on the video below to view)**



Click on the Video Above to View

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