



CNYSBA NEWS

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Let's Start Planning Now for Next Year and Beyond

By Dr. Rick Timbs

What we know about the future:

- Inflation may be ebbing, but it has not gone away.
 - This means many items school districts purchase for educational and operation purposes will continue to escalate.
 - Continued inflationary trends, although less than last year, will affect the cost of school district staff.

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- In some cases, regular inflation is not the only problem... simple supply and demand is.
 - This year we have experienced significant increases in capital project costs for labor and materials. In many places, bids came in far above estimates. This wreaks havoc on capital project budget timelines and aid calculations. There is no indication that this trend will decline any time soon.
 - Further, there are still many “long lead items” in capital projects in large part due to supply chain issues and pent-up demand for certain products. While some items may experience some relief others have not and will not any time soon.
 - Interest rates for capital project borrowing are significantly higher now than they were in recent memory. While this is a largely a function of national economic policy it is also a function of the markets and the fiscal capacity of school districts. There is no indication that this trend will significantly decline any time soon.

- General trends are emerging for school districts that will affect short- and long-term finances.
 - Note that in some regions of the state, within specific job classifications or positions, there will be increased competition for labor. Certain teaching positions, student support areas, as well as bus drivers, bus monitors, cleaners, custodians, and maintenance personnel come to mind.
 - There is also a growing understanding that school district leadership positions are not garnering previous levels of candidates. There is and will continue to be significant turnover in leadership positions. Generally, this is due to retirements, and movement among School Districts across the state for various reasons, coupled with the advent of less experienced professionals eager for leadership positions that will face steep learning curves.
 - Health insurance in some regions, plans and consortia continue to climb in cost to School Districts. Caution should be observed as School Districts examine the reserves of their health plan as well as trend data which in many cases points to increase use of services and general escalation in overall medical costs for those services.
 - Service costs for students with special needs continue to grow as does that population of our most vulnerable students. Mental health and related services continue to grow as we address a myriad of post COVID socio-emotional and educational issues. The expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs has increased in popularity as an educational choice. This will result in an expansion of funds in some portions of school district budgets and a reallocation of financial resources to other areas.

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- **New York State finances will play a role in school district finances.**
 - Recent comments and statements by the Comptroller (Office of the State Comptroller- OSC), indicate and suggest that the state despite significant “rainy-day” funds at its disposal, will face some significant deficits three to six years into the future.
 - The ability of New York State to support School Districts with significant increases in revenues will be muted as funds within the state are reallocated to other areas.
 - This may be particularly true as the state considers Foundation Aid generally “fully funded”. The Foundation Aid formula may still run. However, absent significant inflation, enrollment growth or considerable change in individual School District demographics, as compared to statewide metrics, I would anticipate that for most School Districts, Foundation Aid will remain fundamentally stagnant. However, in the past the state has allocated a “due minimum” amount of growth in Foundation Aid for each School District. Any percentage or amount of increase in the future is uncertain.
 - The emerging comprehension of the state mandate for Zero-Emission buses is particularly problematic. This mandate represents a significant cost increase to School Districts not only for the purchase of the buses, but the renovations needed to transportation facilities, purchases of new equipment and extra parts and the re-training of staff.
 - ▪ It should be noted that New York State has “promised” financial assistance to assist School Districts as they deal with the new mandate.
 - The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has several programs to assist School Districts to meet the Zero-Emission bus mandate, yet in total they will not be close to enabling the accomplishment of the purchase for all the Zero-Emission buses needed, estimated to be 50,000 bus replacements by 2035. Neither will the recent bond act. (Think about 50,000 buses at about \$400,000 each... that’s \$20 billion).
 - We continue to wait for the NYSERDA plan due months ago that might clearly identify remedies or options for School Districts.
 - Additionally, “promised” Building Aid for Transportation Facility renovations, Transportation Aid for the purchase of Zero-Emission buses, and state monies to create the “Grid infrastructure to bring the mandate to fruition are cause for concern. Clear-eyed estimates on the cost of this state support

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and investment are sketchy at best as is the timing of the support initiatives.

- Significant research and analysis are needed to determine the best path for each School District as the specifications to proceed with a major capital investment and state financial support are not complete. Further, every School District is in a different situation financially, has different structural transportation needs and capacity.

There is much to do and think about this summer to prepare for the future.

Let's start NOW...

Be well,

Rick

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.

Thanks and Dedication to the 2022-2023 Board Member of Achievement Honorees

40 Years ago, the CNYSBA Board of Directors began a tradition of honoring Board Members from each county association at this our annual dinner at the end of the school year. This year's event was held at The Lodge at Hillrom in Skaneateles Falls on May 24th. The selection of these honorees was made by the county BOCES associations. THE CNYSBA publicly honored the selected recipients for their service to their districts, students (and their families), and staff. In the sincerest manner, Congratulations from the Central New York School Boards Association.

CNYSBA Board of Directors

Peg Peri, President

Joan Reeves, Vice President

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Cortland-Madison

Michael Murry, McGraw
Peg Peri, Cincinnatus & OCM BOCES

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Dr. Mark Muhammad,
Syracuse City Holly Frazee,
Fabius-Pompey
Joan Reeves, Baldwinsville & OCM BOCES

Oswego County

Nicole Nadeau, APW
Connie Douglas, Mexico

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga

Susan Tabrizi, Lansing
Rhonda Kowalski, Dryden
Missy Rynone, Newfield & TST BOCES

Lisa O'Reilly

Onondaga-Madison School Boards Association Board Member of Achievement Honoree 22-23

Lisa's volunteer service to our district began when she was invited to serve on Westhill's Facility Planning Committee formed around 2005 which brought forth the first phase of our current building project and was elected to the Westhill School Board in 2006.

Lisa served as Vice President for several years before being nominated to serve as Board President in 2014 where continues to serve. She was also elected to represent Westhill, Marcellus, Lyncourt, Onondaga and Solvay school districts on the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison (OCM) BOCES Board of Education in 2008 and won election again in 2023 to continue to represent our component districts at that table.

She has served on their Audit, District Superintendent evaluation and Board evaluation committees and currently serves as Chair of their Policy committee.

Connie Douglas

Oswego County School Boards Association Board Member of Achievement Honoree 22-23

The Oswego County School Boards' Association is pleased and proud to nominate Connie Douglas to receive our Outstanding School Board Member of the Year Achievement Award for 2023.

Connie comes to us from the Mexico Academy and Central School District. She has lived in Mexico all of her life. Together with her husband, Bernie, they have four children, along with four in-law children and a total of seven grandchildren.

Connie began her career in education as a school bus driver while attending SUNY Oswego, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. She recently retired from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance where she served as an auditor for nearly twenty years.

Connie has served on the Mexico School Board for nine years. While on that Board, she served on both the audit and finance committees, drawing on her career experiences. She has represented Mexico on the Oswego County SBA's Board of Directors, serving as it's treasurer. In addition, she represents OCSBA on the Central NY SBA at present.

Connie Douglas continued

Connie originally ran for a seat on the Mexico School Board after her youngest child graduated from high school, as a way to stay connected to her Alma Mater. She loves kids and considers being a part of education in some capacity to be very rewarding.

As a life long learner, she values education and has continued to learn and grow during her tenure as a Board member.

Those of us who have served with Connie on her many Boards and committees consider her a treasured friend, as well as a colleague, and an extremely strong advocate for our children and our communities.

Karen Guerrette

Cayuga-Onondaga School Boards Association Board Member of Achievement Honoree

21-22

Karen Guerrette began her tenure on the Jordan-Elbridge School Board in 2016, in 2018 she was elected Vice President of the Board and in 2019 Karen was elected President of The JE School Board. Karen has been an outstanding school board member and leader. Most notably, Karen organizes and leads a retreat with members of the school board and the JE administrative team. As a result, she has created a culture of trust and collaboration with the administrative staff. On opening day with staff, Karen prepares and delivers a welcome back presentation that sets a positive tone for the school year. Karen has even served as the Keynote speaker at our graduation ceremony in 2021. Karen mentors newly elected board members. This includes educating new board members relative to the educational initiatives of the school district. Ms. Guerrette participates in the Board President's roundtable and last year she promoted a student led booth at the NYSSBA Annual Convention in Syracuse. JE students presented on the Middle School International Baccalaureate Program.

Karen Guerrette is employed by Pearson Education where she works on customer experience, spending time on continuous improvement initiatives. She has utilized her expertise gained at Pearson to help the Jordan-Elbridge school district update their social media presence and digitize the student Program of Studies at Jordan-Elbridge High School. In her spare time, she volunteers for Scouts BSA and the high school musical productions. Karen and her husband Corey are 16 year residents of Jordan-Elbridge and have two children. Katelyn, a junior at Jordan-Elbridge High School and Logan, an eighth grader at Jordan-Elbridge Middle School.

Jhoanna Haynes

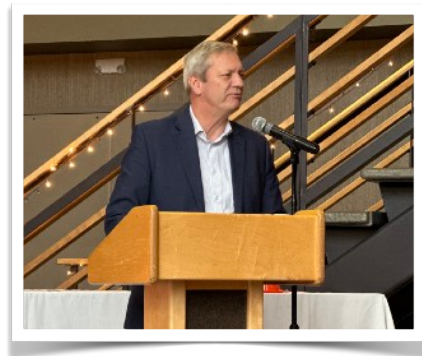
Thompkins-Seneca-Tioga School Boards Association Board Member of Achievement Honoree 22-23

Jhoanna Haynes has served on the Trumansburg Board of Education for six years. She has been President for the last two and half years, leading the board through the uncertainty of COVID and a period of social unrest in our country.

Jhoanna has served on various committees, including Curriculum, Policy, Food Service, and the Finance Committees. She also served as the Trumansburg representative for TST BOCES SBA. After joining the Board of Education, she quickly moved from a listener/participant to a leader invested in adopting resolutions and passing policy that would continue the district on its trajectory to improve student outcomes. She was invested in the process of negotiations backing the district interest in increasing the wages for our lowest compensated employees.

She is a strong supporter of district-wide events, attending extracurricular activities and concerts and volunteering with the PTO. Jhoanna was one of the first to participate in a district book study on DEI. She has been an advocate and voice for putting DEI work at the forefront of the district's goals and played an active role in the process of creating a new mission and vision for the district to include a strategic plan with actionable outcomes. She has attended professional development opportunities and in her role as President has prioritized board development through holding board retreats.

She leads with calm and grace and the work she has done for Trumansburg and the voice she has given on the board will leave a long-lasting positive legacy on the work Trumansburg Central School District.



Special Thanks to Our Keynote Speaker at Our Annual Dinner - Randy Wolken of MACNY

Randy Wolken was the Keynote Speaker at this year's Annual Dinner, and we thank him for his very inspiring presentation.

Mr. Wolken is the President & CEO of MACNY, the Manufacturers Association, which serves approximately 350-member companies. He is also President of the Manufacturers Alliance of New York, which is a coalition of manufacturing groups representing over 1,500 companies across New York State.

Mr. Wolken joined MACNY in 2001 and has dedicated the past 22 years to improving the business climate in Upstate New York and beyond. Prior to joining MACNY, Wolken served as the Executive Director of the Samaritan Center, a non-profit organization responsible for serving people in need of meals, referral services, and job training. Randy also spent four years as an officer on active duty at both Griffiss Air Force Base and Fort Drum.

CNYSBA Would Like to Offer Special Thanks to the Following as We Conclude the School Year:

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To the Staff and Leadership Team of **Manufacturers Association of Central New York (MACNY)** and **Partners for Education & Business (PEB)** for their collaboration with our Pathways to Careers events.

To **C&S Companies** who provided sponsorship of our Pathways to Careers events and has again provided the plaques honoring the CNYSBA Board Members Achievements.

To **Don Budmen** (Ferrara Fiorenza Law Firm); **Mike Vespi** (Forecast 5 Analytics); **Mike Sheperd** (Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, CiTi BOCES); **Jacob Skeval** (Bonadio Group CPAs); **Connie Wallis** (ARM, Senior Loss Control Specialist); **Colleen Heinrich** (Ferrara Fiorenza Law Firm); **Kate Reid** (Bond, Schoeneck, & King Attorneys at Law); **Bonnie Russell** (School Informational Officer at West Genesee); **Dr. Rick Timbs** (Statewide School Finance Consortium) for providing their expertise at the CNYSBA NYS Mandated Finance and/or Governance Training for the newly elected school board members.

BOCES District Superintendents **Matt Cook, Jeff Matteson, Chris Todd, Brian Hartwell**, and their staffs at OCM, TST, CiTi, and Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES for supporting us throughout the year.

School District Clerks and Secretaries, who graciously followed up with their board members and administrators to secure reservations for our meetings and programs, and who help keep our membership contact information current and accurate. We could not do it without your help.

Bill Keeler from Keeler Strategies, Inc. for creating our new website, newsletter, and conducting/producing the interviews for our series, "You Do What for A Living?"



Please scroll through photos from our CNYSBA Annual Dinner

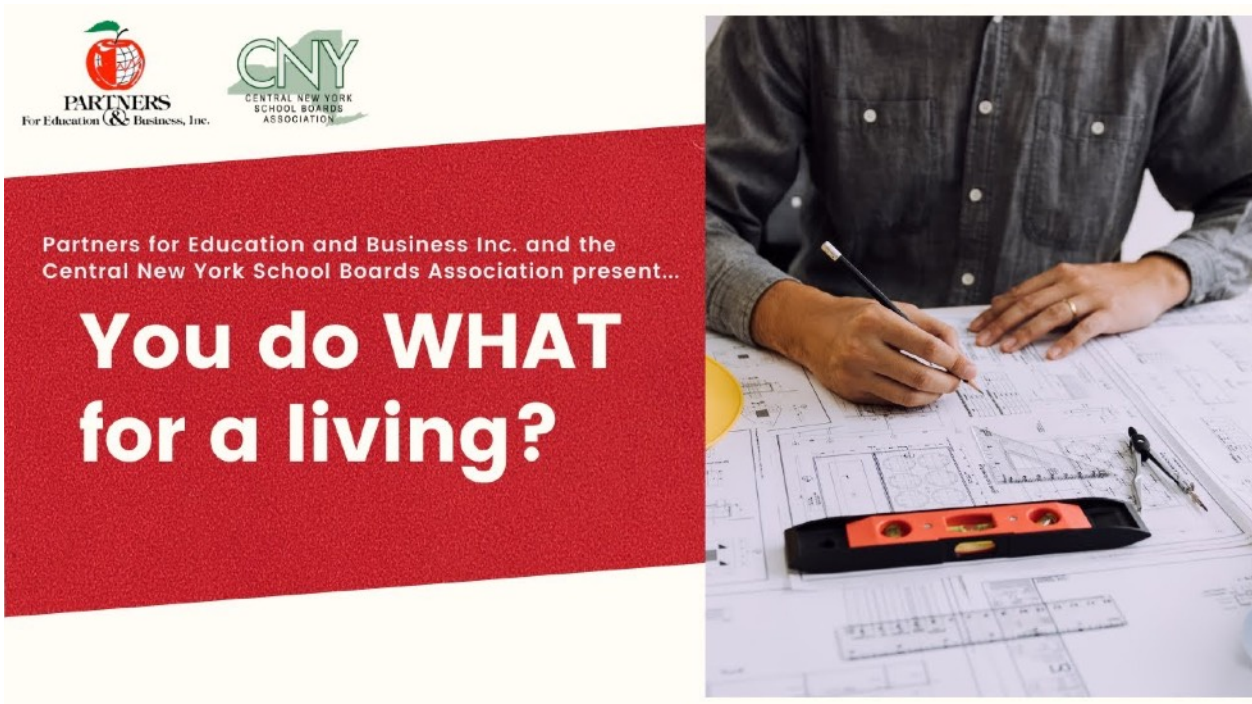


Have your students or district accomplished something special that you would like to share? We would love to feature them in our newsletter.

Email us: Ashley@cnysba.org

You Do What for a Living?

Watch our video segment, You Do What for a Living? to learn about Chef Eric Smith, of Giovanni Foods. He's the Director of Culinary Research and Development and Corporate Executive Chef at Giovanni Foods. The interview is hosted by Kathy Birmingham of Partners For Education and Business.



Click on the Video Above to View

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