



# CNYSBA NEWS

*Train, Empower, Advocate, and Mobilize for Students*

## *Oswego Middle School Presents Under-The-Sea-Adventure “The Little Mermaid”*

The Oswego Middle School is proud to present its spring musical production of *The Little Mermaid*, taking place April 10 and April 11 at 7 p.m. at the Oswego High School . This full-length production features a cast and crew of 58 students, highlighting the dedication, creativity and teamwork of young performers and technicians.

*Continued on Page 8*



## **School District Budget/ Legislative Season: So much to think about... Part 3**

*By Dr. Rick Timbs*

**It is hoped that as of this writing the state budget will have been adopted... But if past is prolog, perhaps not.**

As the executive director of the Statewide School Finance Consortium, I have experienced growing frustration with the following two items:

- 1.The Foundation Aid proposal by the governor and those contained in the Assembly and Senate “One House budgets.”
- 2.The continuing unnecessary saga of the Zero-Mission bus mandate.

Continued on Next Page

## **The Foundation Aid proposal by the governor and those contained in the Assembly and Senate “One House budgets.”**

### **Assembly Proposal**

- Foundation Aid: Offers 2% increase to Save-Harmless Districts

### **Senate Proposal**

- Foundation Aid: Offers 2% increase to Save-Harmless Districts

### **Save- Harmless school districts:**

It is obvious as I study school districts for the last three months, that the governor’s proposal for a 1% increase is woefully insufficient and at the one house budgets proposed by both the Assembly and the Senate to increase that amount to 2% for safe harmless districts is not much better.

With increasing frequency, I am finding that regardless of which of the two proposals is accepted neither one is going to help school districts thrive, let alone survive, over the next five years. I am sure we have all read the headlines that indicate that numerous school districts are cutting staff through reductions in force, attrition, or breakage in an effort to increase their chances of financial survival over the next five years.

At the same time districts are trimming fund balances which will jeopardize their cash flows as they experience above inflation levels of expenses related to salaries, health insurance, pension costs as well as the purchases of supplies, equipment and materials needed to run an educational program in a school district. All while the mission of school districts increases dramatically.

Simultaneously many are exhausting reserves a little at a time and finding appropriate fund balances growing as expense projections outstrip revenues for next school year and worsen in the out years. It is also becoming increasingly clear that in many cases the ability to build or replenish reserves as rainy day funds or for planned use for such things as capital expenses is slowly being exhausted or no longer exists.

School districts also find themselves in a bind regarding their taxpayers who face financial challenges of their own in many communities. School boards face the reality that small tax levy increases will not provide the revenues to sustain the school district over the next few years. Further, school boards are faced with an uncertain future, leaning towards microscopic foundation aid increases or perhaps no increases at all. School boards are left in a difficult situation.

I believe that state support for school districts has reached a turning point or perhaps even a crossroads. Lack of robust state support for these school districts will eventually result in their financial demise. And let us say the quiet part aloud... district will creep further into “mergers” which are “the third rail” of school district politics. Ironically, over the last few years the state of New York has provided a significant increase in funds provided to school districts that merge.

**The Bus mandate is still in effect... the state is not listening (they are not acting either!)**

There is absolutely no way most school districts can afford this mandate nor in most regions of the state is the power grid ready for this initiative. FULL STOP

My recent studies with school districts points to significant limitations of revenue increases, vs. significant cost increases on the horizon. This spells trouble for school districts long-range. This also makes their ability to buy Zero-Emission buses more remote and financially and politically antagonistic as characterized by a number of voter defeats of Zero-Emission bus proposals.

As an owner of a hybrid vehicle myself I find no problem with the purchase of and use of Zero-Emission buses. It is a great idea. It is just that the financial cost and timelines are currently unattainable for almost all school districts.

By simply moving back this mandate five years will not solve the problem. 10 years is probably more practical, and we will save everyone the embarrassment of moving it back another five years after the first 5 years doesn't work.

Please be cognizant of the growing debate over the power structure for data centers being suggested throughout the state of New York and the amount of power that they will need to operate and the unwillingness of communities to accept them. Municipalities and the communities they serve express consistently a fear of the consequences for any communities that are unable or unwilling to support the impact of these centers related to major items such as transportation systems and environmental issues, all the way to quality of life.

I am not opposed to the legislature providing additional support for those districts that wish to purchase these buses. The problem is that all state aid comes from the same state aid pie and by making more pieces or smaller pieces it makes our ability to maintain our major mission more difficult.

**Assembly Proposals**

- Offers \$100 million for Zero-Emission buses and infrastructure through Sustainable Futures Program

*Continued on Next Page*

## Senate Proposals

- Offers \$100 million for Zero-Emission infrastructure through Sustainable Futures Program
- Provides Building Aid for required infrastructure for storage, charging and operations for Zero-Emission bus mandate.

While it is great for the state to promise additional support in an effort to transition to Zero-Emission buses as well as the transformation of our transportation facilities by providing building aid or transportation aid I am not so sure the amount of aid that would be necessary has been totally calculated into the State's long term budget nor am I convinced that it is sustainable even if it is agreeable by the state.

The financial and implementation plan to transition to Zero-Emission buses for every single school district in the state of New York regardless of topography, climate, snowfall, and square miles and to serve the nuances of the transportation system vulnerable to the needs of students, remains unstudied.

### **As a reminder...Serious Issues Remain**

#### **Do not give up!**

Produce a lobby plan and talking points. I encourage you to seek allies from parents, key community leaders, and others to help you lobby. Often school district residents can provide valuable support as voters toward mutual goals!

See you soon,

Be well,

Rick

**SO YOU WANT TO BE A**  
**BOARD MEMBER?**  
**VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE EVENT**



**OPEN EVENT FOR ALL, PUBLIC WELCOME**



**ON APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2026**  
**VIA ZOOM FROM 6PM-7PM**



Have you or someone you know thought about becoming a Board of Education Member for a School District?

Wondering what a Board of Education does? Want to know the process to join a Board?

Join us for an Informational Zoom Session to learn more.

**ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION AS A WHOLE & INDIVIDUAL**

**TOPICS DISCUSSED:**

**IMPACTS & REWARDS OF BEING A BOARD MEMBER. & OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**



**REGISTER TODAY!!**

[WWW.CNYSBA.ORG](http://WWW.CNYSBA.ORG)



**Central New York School Boards Association**

# SCHOOL HEALTH SYSTEMS

## TST BOCES

### STRENGTHENING SCHOOL HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The TST BOCES School Health Systems expands the traditional school Medical Director role into a coordinated, regional health support system. By embedding medical professionals within BOCES, this COSER strengthens communication between schools, healthcare providers, and families so students receive the right support sooner. The result is improved student well-being, reduced strain on school staff, and fewer barriers to learning.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES: WHAT'S INCLUDED

Service	Traditional Medical Director	School Health Systems COSER
State health compliance	•	•
CSE & Special Education collaboration	•	•
Nursing Consultation	•	•
Sports & mandated physicals	•	•
School-initiated request for physical evaluation related to complex concerns		•
Advocate for timely access to medical care		•
24/7 on-call medical support		•
Mental health screening		•
Direct PCP communication		•
Care coordination		•
Tiered huddles		•
Psychiatric consultation (Project TEACH)		•
Crisis support & hospital coordination		•
Equity of access to care		•
Regionalization of medical support ie) Narcan Support, Nursing Initiatives		•
Regional provider partnerships		•
System-level tracking & insights		•

## TIERED COLLABORATION MODEL TO MATCH STUDENT NEED & URGENCY

\*WITH GUARDIAN CONSENT

### TIER 6

Coordination of higher level care\*

### TIER 5

Project TEACH huddle with student-specific planning\*

### TIER 4

Anonymous (no student PII) Project TEACH consultation\*

### TIER 3

School, BOCES, and PCP huddle\*

### TIER 2

Medical Team connects with primary care provider (PCP)\*

### TIER 1

Medical Team connects with school

# 27%

of students receiving routine health exams were **connected to mental health supports** they would not have otherwise received

Average monthly support touchpoints increased

# 126%

- 2024–25: **34 per month**
- 2025–26: **77 per month**

Increased demand reflects trust, access, and earlier intervention

## WHAT SCHOOLS CAN EXPECT:

### RELIABLE RESPONSE TIMES

- **Phone Call:** Immediate support, **24/7**
- **Email:** Response within **1 business day**
- **Tier 1–3 huddles:** Within **1–2 weeks**
- **Project TEACH huddles:** Within **1–3 weeks**

### GET SUPPORT SOONER

Early coordination and 24/7 on-call support help address concerns before escalation and reduce delays to care.

### REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN

Streamline communication so staff spend less time coordinating care.

### INCREASE EQUITY IN HEALTH ACCESS

Connect students to the right supports, regardless of background or circumstance.

### PROVIDE BACKUP WHEN SCHOOLS NEED IT MOST

Ensures schools are never navigating complex health situations alone.

### A WHOLE-CHILD APPROACH

Align education, family, and healthcare around student need.

### LOCAL PEDIATRIC PRACTICE PARTNER

“ This is the first approach that feels sustainable. It provides clear, coordinated communication between schools and medical providers and has had a real impact on treatment planning and family engagement. ”



# Mental Health

## VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE EVENT

Hosted Jointly By:

**NAMI** Syracuse  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

**CNY**  
CENTRAL NEW YORK  
SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION

**MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
6:00-7:30PM  
VIA ZOOM

**MENTAL Health MATTERS**

### REGISTER TODAY!

Join us to learn about FLARE - Flexible Learning for Adolescent Resiliency Education, NAMI's new free middle school mental health literacy curriculum. This session will include information on how the FLARE curriculum was created, how to access and customize it, our suite of teaching and support resources for educators, and additional information on how you can advocate for Mental Health Literacy in your community and at large.

Jordan Miller is a Manager of Youth & Young Adult Initiatives at NAMI National leading development and community outreach for FLARE and other NAMI National youth initiatives. Previously, she served as the executive producer of NAMI's Ask the Expert webinar series and as project manager of both NAMI's You Are Not Alone books.

Visit our website: [www.cnysba.org](http://www.cnysba.org)

Register Now: [Click here](#)

Visit NAMI's website: <https://namisyracuse.org/>

*Oswego Middle School Performs "Little Mermaid" Continued from Page 1*

This beloved musical brings to life the story of Ariel and her journey beyond the sea, filled with memorable songs, vibrant characters and a message about courage and self-discovery. Students have worked collaboratively for weeks to deliver a performance that promises to entertain audiences of all ages.



*Students performing "The Little Mermaid."*

The production includes student performers Raylyn A., Jelianis A., Callan A., Katherine A., Apollo A., Anjali A., Abigail B., Carissa B., Harmony B., Harvey B., Logan B., Oliver B., Emily C., Riley C., McKenna C., Jiyana C., Liliana C., Tatianna D., Rebecca D., Sadie D., Genny F., Grace F., JP G., Amy G., Josephine H., Lola H., Sean H., Willow H., Jack J., Aviana J., Lauren J., Megan J., Olivia K., Matthew K., Nora K., Jozela K., Anna K., Ariel L., Audriana L., Luffy L., Wesley M., Helen M., Hailey M., Sebastian M., Olive M., Grace N., Anastasia P., Alexia P., Bryce P., Alison Q., Ellie R., Ken R., Nicole S., Miya S., Sarah S., Kahli S., Margaret T., Nolan V., and Sabrina W.

Performances will be held at Oswego High School. Tickets are available for \$8 online or at the door and can be purchased in advance at: <https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/the-little-mermaid#/>

# PARTNERS FOR BUSINESS & EDUCATION, INC

● AFFILIATE ARTICLE

● 2026

## 2026 SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CAREER FAIR: A POWERFUL CAREER CONNECTIONS FOR STUDENTS

On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, the Syracuse City School District (SCSD) held its annual Career & Technical Education (CTE) Career Fair at the SRC Arena. The arena became a vibrant hub of opportunity, showcasing the district's talent pipeline and fostering workforce connections.

This year's career fair was co-hosted by Onondaga Community College. The event was a partnership with Partners for Education & Business, Inc., an Affiliate of MACNY, and the Syracuse City School District. This highlighted how regional collaboration helps prepare students for immediate employment and long-term career success.

800 Syracuse City School District students participated in this year's fair, including 11th and 12th-graders from across its 41 CTE pathways who are working toward their associate degrees.

The scale of the event was equally impressive on the employer side. More than 90 industry partners representing a wide range of STEM and STEAM-related fields, including advanced manufacturing, construction trades, entrepreneurship, healthcare, performing and visual arts, public service, technology, and trade unions, along with 16 colleges and universities, military recruiters, and union representatives, participated in this year SCSD CTE's Career Fair. This breadth of participation made this year's Career Fair one of the region's most impactful workforce development events for high school students.

Unlike traditional career fairs that centered on information gathering, this year's event emphasized action and outcomes through structured "Speed Networking", a new, innovative idea to allow employers and students to engage in focused, meaningful conversations, and for students to explore and pursue summer internships, apprenticeships, job shadows, and entry-level employment opportunities that align with their interests.

In addition to that, industry partners also brought hands-on demonstrations and technical displays, which gave students a firsthand look at high-demand fields. From career simulations to equipment showcases, students were not just hearing about careers; they were experiencing them. This made it more energetic and interactive.

Furthermore, Colleges and Universities also played a critical role, connecting students with continuing education pathways aligned with their CTE and P-TECH programs. These conversations reinforced a clear and cohesive bridge between high school coursework, associate degree attainment, and sustainable career advancement.

All in all, this year, the Syracuse City School District Career and Technical Education Career Fair demonstrated what is possible when education and industry work hand in hand. By bringing employers directly to students, the Partner for Education and Business, Inc's partnership with the Syracuse City School District continues to strengthen Syracuse's workforce pipeline and expand meaningful pathways to high school students. For the hundreds of students who walked into the SRC Arena that morning, it was not just a career exploration experience, but a launching point for their professional journeys.

- Mohamed Thiam, Workforce Development Specialist  
Partners for Education and Business Inc.—An Affiliate of  
MACNY.



<https://www.macny.org/pcb/>

## Mexico MS students explore adapted athletics with CNY Adapted Sports



*Students from Mexico Middle School pause their sled hockey game to pose for a photo. CNY Adapted Sports afforded MACS students the opportunity to explore three adapted sports during their recent visit to the district's high school and middle school.*

Students at Mexico Middle School recently had the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities with CNY Adapted Sports, including a visit to the high school the week prior.

During the visit, students were introduced to a variety of adapted sports and equipment, including wheelchair basketball, adapted biking and sled hockey.

The experience provided a fun and engaging way for students to build awareness, develop new skills and explore inclusive recreational opportunities.

These visits were made possible through Arts in Education funding, supporting meaningful, real-world experiences for students across our schools.





Join Us for the

# CNY

CENTRAL NEW YORK  
SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION

## 43rd Annual Dinner

### Event Information

---

**Date:** Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Time:** 5:00pm - 8:00pm

**Cost:** \$60.00 / person (billed to district)

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

---

*Key Note Speaker:*

**NY Regent - Patrick A. Mannion**



SCAN ME!

