

N-SSBA

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association

SERVICE, SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

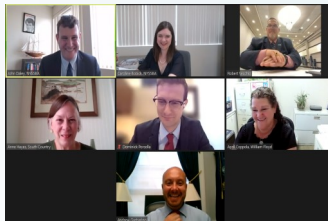
Newsline September 2023 edition

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How Did You Spend Your Summer?

N-SSBA Was Busy Advocating and Planning!



The N-SSBA team kept a busy schedule this past summer. We attended and spoke at a press conference to continue the advocacy for Healthy School Meals for all NYS Students. We also participated in an online meeting with Congressman Andrew Garbarino to discuss our federal legislative priorities along with NYSSBA, and School Board Trustees April Coppola (William Floyd) and Anne Hayes (South Country). Several members of N-SSBA’s executive committee attended a press conference with U.S. Senator Charles Schumer who announced a new initiative that would provide technical assistance and funding for cybersecurity measures for schools. N-SSBA’s Executive Director also met with NYS Senator Alexis Weik to discuss the mental health issues facing our adolescents and the impacts on our schools. N-SSBA is also spearheading a workgroup of local school business officials to review the current foundation aid formula and explore reforms necessary to make sure aid is equitably distributed going forward now that the foundation aid formula has been fully funded in the current State budget. In addition, the staff has been busy planning this year’s upcoming in-person events. We have several already scheduled (see page 6 for our calendar of events). We look forward to seeing all of you in the upcoming months and wish you all very successful openings.

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NYSSBA Would like to Welcome 2 New Districts to Our Association!

Welcome aboard the Fishers Island and Greenport School Districts who have joined N-SSBA!



In Remembrance of Our Friends

Since our last publication, the Long Island Education Community lost some amazing public education advocates. On behalf of the N-SSBA family, we extend our deepest condolences to their families, friends, and their school communities.



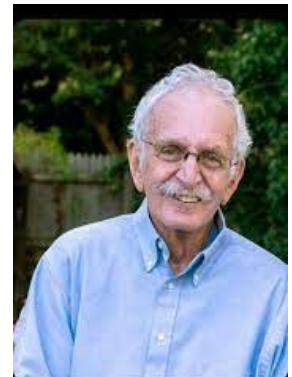
Dr. Theresa Prendergrast
Superintendent
Great Neck SD



Norman Wagner
School Board Trustee
Central Islip/Eastern Suffolk BOCES
N-SSBA Executive Committee Member



Dr. Robert R. Dillon
Superintendent
Nassau BOCES



Fred Langstaff
School Board Trustee
Sayville/Eastern Suffolk BOCES
NYSSBA Past President
N-SSBA Executive Committee Member

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” – President John Quincy Adams



Have Your School and Students On The Radio!

“Spotlight on Long Island Schools” on LI News Radio highlights Long Island school districts, specific schools, students, and teachers, promoting school pride moments, communicating school messages and curriculum, while providing thought-provoking interviews and discussions with school officials and educational leaders in the communities we serve.

This is a service that N-SSBA is offering its member districts as a way to give your students and staff a truly unique experience by giving your district the ability to positively promote something either unique or special that you do in your district that you want your community and communities outside of your area to know about. After the show airs your district receives a copy of the show so you can promote in your electronic newsletters or other electronic media outlets.

To sign your district up for a show email Bob Vecchio at bvecchio@nssba.org.

Below are the links to the some recent shows that were recorded and aired:

[East Rockaway SD](#)

[Freeport SD](#)

[Levittown SD](#)

[Oceanside SD](#)

[Lindenhurst SD](#)

[William Floyd SD](#)

[School Bus Safety Program](#)

Over 300 School Leaders Attend NYSSBA's Leadership in Education Event in Albany

School Board Trustees and other school officials attended the Leadership in Education Event hosted by the New York State School Boards Association at the Desmond Hotel in Albany from 8/28/23-8/29/23. There was a wide array of topics covered in breakout sessions, including one on substance abuse issues in schools in which N-SSBA's Executive Director Bob Vecchio was a panelist along side of the Commissioner for the NYS Office of Addiction Supports and Service (OASAS). It was a great opportunity for board training on governance, learning about current issues, and networking with board members from our region and across the State. We look forward to attending next year's event and hope to see you all there.



N-SSBA Welcomes Over 30 Newly Elected Trustees at The Annual New School Board Member Dinner

On June 15, 2023, over 30 newly elected trustees from Nassau and Suffolk Counties gathered at the Heritage Club at Bethpage to hear from veteran board members from N-SSBA's Executive Committee discuss best practices and roles and responsibilities of trustees. The evening featured Mary Jo O'Hagan (Baldwin), Susan Bertraum (Nassau BOCES), Susan Lipman (N-SSBA President and Eastern Suffolk BOCES trustee), and Brian Sales (Copiague & Western Suffolk BOCES) relate some of their experiences as trustees and officers of their boards of education. An online webinar follow-up with the attendees is scheduled for this coming October.



**N-SSBA's 2023-2024
Executive Committee Members**

Officers

*Susan Lipman
President (ES BOCES)*

*Lawrence Greenstein
Nassau VP (Nassau BOCES)*

*Matthew Clareen
Suffolk VP (Islip)*

*Charmise Desiré
Secretary/Treasurer (Uniondale)*

Nassau County Members

*Karen Brohm
West Hempstead*

*Jeanne D'Esposito, Esq.
Malverne*

*Michael Jaime
Elmont*

*Stuart Kaplan
Oceanside*

*Michael Pappas
Levittown*

*Patricia Rudd
New Hyde Park-Garden City Park*

*Maria Venuto
Glen Cove*

Suffolk County Members

*Nicholas Ciappetta, Esq.
South Huntington*

*Steven Gellar
Little Flower*

*Kelli Anne Jennings
Patchogue-Medford*

*Michele Kustera
Huntington*

*Chris Picini
South Country*

*Kenneth Urban
Copiague*

*Dawn Sharrock
Middle Country*

Immediate Past President

*Michael Kelly
Bethpage*

A Message From Our President Susan Lipman

Well, the summer sure did fly by quickly and here we are back at school! Not that as school board members, educational leaders or our association does our work and responsibilities ever take a "summer vacation"! I think this edition of Newline is evidence of just how busy the summer was for N-SSBA!

The start of a new school year is an extraordinary time, sort of like the renewal that spring brings. It's a time for all involved in education to feel excited about the opportunities that everyone has worked so hard to provide to enable every student to find success and take another step toward achieving their hopes and dreams for the future.

I remember as a young teacher, this was also an exciting time for me. Setting up my classroom, the anticipation of meeting my new students and the deep desire to not just help them learn but inspire them to give their best efforts, be curious, explore a variety of interests and feel successful. The efforts of every person involved in our schools hold the promise of a bright future for all our students.

As we begin this school year, I want to take this opportunity to welcome the new trustees and wish them every success as they navigate the complex issues that we face every day. It was wonderful to have met those who attended our New School Board Member training. By all accounts, it was a wonderful event!

Many of us are still healing from the passing of 4 extraordinary educational leaders Fred Langstaff, Norman Wagner, Dr. Bob Dillon, and Dr. Theresa Prendergast. While I never had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Prendergast, I know her passing is felt by many. For me, I have known & worked with Fred, Norman and Bob for many years and their



passing is a personal as well as professional loss.

Lastly, I just want to mention the NYSED's Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Graduation Measures. As many of you know I represent all of you at that table. We had spent several months working virtually, but this summer we met in person in Albany across 3 days. The integrity of this process, where every BRC member had the freedom to be completely open and honest about the many complex issues surrounding graduation requirements and assessments, was exhilarating. There was nothing that we could not say, consider or openly discuss. I am not at liberty to provide details of the conversations; however, I can tell you that we have a bit more work before a report is prepared and presented to the Board of Regents. That report is anticipated to be presented at the November Board of Regents meeting.

In closing, I want to assure you that our awesome professional staff; Executive Director, Bob Vecchio and Administrative Director, Lorraine Mentz will continue to work collaboratively with the Executive Committee of N-SSBA to represent you well and provide you with outstanding programs.

Wishing you all a productive and satisfying school year!

Federal Grant and Technical Assistance Available for Cybersecurity Needs

By Jen Easterly, CISA Director, and Deanne Criswell, FEMA Administrator

State and local governments are facing increasingly sophisticated threats to their critical infrastructure and public safety. In order to protect our homeland and communities across the nation from these persistent threats, it is critical that our government partners work together to build the skills, knowledge, and capabilities we need to truly manage the cyber risks that we face.

That's why we are excited to announce another \$379 million being available as part of Year 2 of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). Applicants are encouraged to submit their cybersecurity plans developed with FY22 funds to access FY23 funding. With this funding, the Department of Homeland Security reinforces our commitment and partnership to help ensure our state, local and territorial (SLT) government partners can build the cyber capabilities that they need.

The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program was created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It provides \$1 billion in funding to SLT partners over four years. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded \$185 million in August 2022 in the program's first year, CISA, through its partnership with FEMA, is helping stakeholders across the country understand the severity of their unique local cyber threats and cultivate partnerships to reduce cyber risks across the SLT community.

Additionally, CISA is available year around to work with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners across the country. With 10 regions that mirror FEMA's, CISA has cybersecurity advisors and other technical experts who can offer guidance, technical assistance, training, and more. To learn more or find a regional contact, visit [State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Government | Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency CISA](#)

Long Island to Celebrate Manufacturing Day 2023

Last year, N-SSBA hosted a very successful event highlighting the offshore wind and manufacturing industries which resulted in great opportunities for our districts. As a follow-up we are urging our governance teams to send a educators and students from your district to this year's upcoming manufacturing day events on Long Island. Learn about the great opportunities that are out there for our students. The Nassau Event is on 10/11/23 from 3-6pm, the Suffolk event is from 2-6pm on 10/19/23. For more information visit [Manufacturing Day 2023](#)

Salute to Manufacturing - Wednesday

Oct 11 - 3-6 PM

Hit the "*" to see more.

Cradle of Aviation Museum
and Education Center



Suffolk County Salute to
Manufacturing - Thursday Oct 19

Hit the "*" to see more.

Suffolk
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



N-SSBA In the News

Click on the links below to see recent news articles that N-SSBA was referenced

[Newsday- Cell phones in schools 6.10.23](#)

[Newsday-Schools Cash Reserves 7.7.2023](#)

[Newsday-facial recognition technology 8.26.23](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- September 27, 2023** Annual Resolutions Dinner
6pm Fox Hollow, Woodbury
- November 1, 2023** Financial Governance Workshop-Nassau
6pm Westbury Manor, Westbury
- November 29, 2023** Financial Governance Workshop-Suffolk
6pm Villa Lombardi's, Holbrook
- January 25, 2024** Annual Joint Conference with the
Nassau & Suffolk Superintendents' Assoc.
6pm Hilton Long Island, Huntington

From the N-SSBA Archives October 18, 1973

Executive Committee Meeting October 18, 1973

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Finance - In the absence of both Co-Chairmen Mr. A. Terry Weathers reported for the Finance Committee. They are currently reviewing N-SSBA policy concerning school finance developed since 1960. It is their intention to recommend dropping those policies which are no longer useful or helpful.

Professional Remuneration - Mr. Simeon Wittenberg informed the Committee that a questionnaire had already been sent to all member boards seeking guidance on the content of our annual Salary Work Book. The office was directed to send a memo to all board presidents asking them to help expedite the return of the questionnaire.

Nominating - A motion was made by Mrs. Dorothy Crane, seconded by Mr. Simeon Wittenberg that Mr. William Spiegel of Harborfields be appointed as Executive Committee member to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Frank Arena who resigned. The motion was carried unanimously.

A suggestion was also made that we are losing valuable human resource simply because we do not know of it. The Executive Committee decided to contact each school board president and ask for names which might be placed in an N-SSBA Talent Pool, not only for Executive Committee membership but for membership on other committees as well. It was agreed that the Boards Eye View and the December meeting would be additional areas for name solicitation.

New Business

Mr. Alvin Delman of the Plainview Board of Education reported on an aftermath of a recent teacher strike. The Internal Revenue Bureau has demanded Social Security payments on portions of salaries which were deducted from teachers and clerks as a penalty. While the issue has not been completely settled, all districts should be aware of the possibility that someday it might affect them. The Executive Committee suggested that the Plainview Board contact the State and National Associations for information and advice.

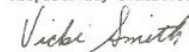
President Weiner presented a plan through which the Executive Committee hopes to maintain a closer communication with our Long Island representatives. Details of the plan are being worked out and will be presented to the membership at a later date.

A motion was made by Mr. Richard Ornauer, seconded by Mr. John Foley and carried that the Executive Committee invite all Long Island State Legislators to a Legislative Meeting, Saturday December 1 in the cafeteria of the Syosset Senior High School

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Richard Ornauer, seconded by Mrs. Eleanor Smith and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Vicki Smith
Secretary