

N-SSBA

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association

SERVICE, SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

Newsline December 2023 edition

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N-SSBA's Annual Resolution Dinner

A Sold Out Event!

We thank everyone who came out to review and discuss the resolutions that were being considered at the State Association's Annual Business meeting. Our annual event has grown to the point where we had a waitlist for those who wanted to attend this year. We reviewed and discussed a total of 56 resolutions that were up for consideration this year. These resolutions were discussed in just over 2.5 hours. Special thanks to N-SSBA's legislative chair Dawn Sharrock (Middle Country SD) for running a very efficient meeting. Our local Boards of Education submitted a total of 23 of the 56 resolutions that were proposed. We want to thank our sponsors SCOPE Education Services, and Island Federal Credit Union for their support of our Association.



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We Would Like to Welcome the North Shore and Seaford School Districts as New Members of N-SSBA



On behalf of the Officers and Executive Committee and team at N-SSBA we want to wish you and your families a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

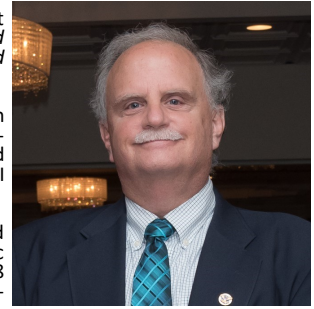
Jim Kaden- A Tribute

By Lorraine Deller, Retired Executive Director

It is with great significance that, over the course of his school board service, Jim Kaden was recognized with the most prestigious awards that could be granted...*N-SSBA's Distinguished Service Award, N-SSBA's Dedicated School Board Member Award, N-SSBA's Champion of Education Award, NYSSBA's Advocate of the Year Award, SCOPE's School Board Service Award; along with the dedication of South Huntington School District's James T. Kaden Administration Building.*

While tributes etched on plaques endure, the context for which they were bestowed inevitably fades over time. Often it is incumbent upon contemporaries who were present during noteworthy times to provide some meaningful reflection. I take great personal pride that in 1998, as the then chair of N-SSBA's Nominating Committee, I encouraged (pushed) Jim to take on a N-SSBA leadership role. Consequently, after becoming N-SSBA's Executive Director in 2000, I was able to bear witness to the remarkable skills and commitment he exhibited as he rose to the presidency in 2007.

Jim's innate ability to encapsulate and direct all relevant information to address the immediate issue or crisis, coupled with his forthright style of communication, brought a unique leadership in what were tumultuous times for public education in New York State and Long Island. In the years preceding the eventual passage of the Tax Cap, the 2008 downturn in the economy brought about mid-year state aid cuts, record numbers of school budget defeats, emergence of anti-school "tax pacs" and the targeting of school costs by politicians and media.



Jim's sense of personal accountability in leadership prompted him to step forward to vigorously champion and defend local school board governance. He made himself available for all media interviews, often coming to the office during his lunch break to speak with NEWS 12. His presence at meetings with Newsday's Editorial Board remains legendary for those who were there in the room.

Jim's representation on the Suffolk County Legislature's Commission on School Property Taxes provided a dose of reality on the complexity of school budgeting. His immediate grasp of the danger for Nassau schools and taxpayers from the stealth attempt by the County of Nassau to abolish the County Guaranty put N-SSBA at the helm of what became a successful outcome after years of litigation. During his term, N-SSBA was credited with removing school districts from compliance with the MTA payroll tax. His conference address, "Tax Cap-A Game You Can't Win" was lauded as prescient, and his pressing N-SSBA's contribution to an economic analysis, "Long Island Education, An Economic Powerhouse" directly led to a lifeline of federal ARRA funding that offset Long Island's 2009 state aid cuts.

Of the aforementioned awards, one stands above the rest. N-SSBA's "Champion of Education" had been established to recognize extraordinary service on behalf of Long Island public education that went well beyond any previously established award criteria. Its reference to "personal courage" was paramount. Personal courage, rooted in strong commitment to local school board governance, was what placed Jim as one of only three individuals upon whom this award has been bestowed.

It is with a sense of admiration and gratitude that I take this moment to honor the legacy that Jim Kaden brought to school board leadership and Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association.

"We don't see things as they are. We see things as we are."
Anais Nin

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 recently recorded and aired:

[Suffolk County Community College](#)

[Superintendent Roundtable](#)

[Seaford](#)

[Freeport](#)

[Suffolk Transportation](#)

[Perma Insurance](#)

[Lindenhurst](#)

[Wyandanch](#)



Over 1,500 School Leaders Attend NYSSBA's Annual Convention in Buffalo

The annual convention in Buffalo had a great turnout and the convention provided many opportunities for learning and professional development for school board members and other members of the governance team. Over 190 members from the Nassau and Suffolk region attended this annual event. In addition, several districts from Long Island also presented at the convention. Hats off to all on a job well done. The City of Buffalo was a great host city, and many took advantage of the Buffalo Bills playing a home game on Thursday evening with unseasonably mild temperatures. The keynote speakers had very powerful messages with very different perspectives. We want to thank and congratulate the NYSSBA staff and team on running a very effective and worthwhile convention. We are looking forward to New York City in 2024!



Guy Leggio and Bob Vecchio Receive the Everett R. Dyer Award For Distinguished School Board Service

At NYSSBA's Annual Convention in Buffalo, Guy Leggio a trustee from Bay Shore, and Bob Vecchio, Executive Director of N-SSBA and former trustee from William Floyd were awarded with the Everett R. Dyer Award.

The Everett R. Dyer Award for Distinguished School Board Service is given annually to a current or former school board member who, in the judgement of the NYSSBA awards committee, should be recognized for outstanding contributions to public education and children in his or her home school district.



Uniondale Trustee and N-SSBA Secretary/Treasurer Elected as NYSSBA Area 11 Director

Charmise Desiré, a trustee from the Uniondale School District has been elected to serve as NYSSBA's Area 11 Director which represents school boards from Nassau County. Her term begins 1/1/24. Congratulations Charmise!



A Message From Our President Susan Lipman

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)

Melissa Herrera (Valley Stream 24)

Michael Jaime (Elmont)

Stuart Kaplan (Oceanside)

Michael Pappas (Levittown)

Thomas Rotolo (Syosset)

Patricia Rudd (NHP-Garden City Park)

Maria Venuto (Glen Cove)

Suffolk County Members

Jennifer Brownyard (Bay Shore)

Nicholas Ciappetta, Esq. (S. Huntington)

Steven Gellar (Little Flower)

Stephanie Gurin (Half Hollow Hills)

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)

I hope this next installment of the N-SSBA Newsline finds you all well. I cannot help but note that while Thanksgiving, the day, is behind us, giving thanks or living in gratitude should be ever present in our minds. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve you alongside an awesome team that makes up N-SSBA! As we prepare for the holiday season, the greatest gift we can give is being servant leaders in our communities and as advocates for the children. The gifts we receive in return cannot be measured.

Sometimes, the gifts we receive come in the form of awards or accolades from our peers. Recently, that was the case for two individuals; Bob Vecchio, our highly enthusiastic Executive Director and former William Floyd Board member and Guy Leggio, Bay Shore Board member who were honored at the NYSSBA Convention with the 2023 Everett R. Dyer Award for Distinguished School Board Service. We extend our congratulations to Bob and Guy again and our sincerest appreciation for the work they continue to do on behalf of the children we serve.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to represent school board members statewide on the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC). As you know the report of the Commission was presented to the Board of Regents on Monday, November 13th.

The 12 recommendations are:

1. Replace the three diploma types with one diploma, with the option to add seals and endorsements.
2. Include civic responsibility (ethics); cultural competence; financial literacy education; fine and performing arts; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) credit(s); and writing, including writing skills for real-world scenarios in diploma credit requirements.
3. Ensure access to career and technical education (CTE), including internships and work based learning opportunities for all students across New York State.
4. Move to a model that organizes credit requirements— including content area credit requirements— into larger categories (e.g., mathematics and science courses could be included in the “STEM” category).
5. Reduce and/or modify diploma assessment requirements to allow more assessment options.
6. Create state-developed rubric(s) for any performance-based assessments allowed as an option to satisfy the diploma assessment requirements.
7. Create more specific, tailored graduation requirements to address the unique circumstances of certain groups of students (e.g., non-compulsory age students, newcomer students, refugee students).
8. Provide exemptions from diploma assessment requirements for students with significant cognitive disabilities and major life events and extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical conditions, death of a family member, trauma prior to sitting for a required exam).
9. Pursue regulatory changes to allow the discretion to confer high school degrees posthumously.



10. Require all New York State teacher preparation programs to provide instruction in culturally responsive-sustaining education (CRSE) practices and pedagogy.
11. Require that professional development plans include culturally responsive-sustaining education practices and pedagogy.
12. Review and revise the New York State learning standards.

The full report provides additional detail so if you haven't had a chance to read the full report, it can be found here: [BRC report](#)

I was impressed with the integrity with which this process was conducted. Nothing was off the table for discussion and consideration by the BRC members and any information or research that we requested to better inform our discussion and deliberations was provided. Among the aspects of our conversations were things like the fact that not all children learn the same way and therefore learning cannot be measured in only one way. The world and workplace are vastly different than it was and continues to change. Maintaining high standards and rigor are essential whether we are preparing them for college or career, and students need more opportunities to expand learning and teacher preparation is key to the success of any change. Lastly, we all know that the devil is in the details. To be clear, the charge of the Commission was to frame recommendations around the “what”. The Board of Regents has not stated whether they will accept all, some, or none of the BRC's recommendations. Presuming that at least some are accepted to move forward, the “how” will be determined for the State Education Department. The members of the BRC found out during the presentation that our input would be sought as they go through framing the “how”. So apparently, my work is not done! It will not be a fast roll out, everyone is cognizant of the errors of the past in that regard.

After you have read the full report, if you have any questions for me, you can email info@nssba.org and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

I want to thank each of you for your efforts in your districts and your support for the N-SSBA events. I always look forward to seeing new and familiar faces! I wish you all many blessings for a joyful holiday season and happy and healthy New Year!

N-SSBA's Fiscal Governance Workshops

N-SSBA recently hosted workshops at two locations on Fiscal Governance and an online workshop on Comptroller Audits. The Fiscal Governance workshops were presented by Dr. Sam Gergis, the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations at the Manhasset School District, and Ms. Marianne Van Duyne, Managing Partner of R.S. Abrams, a public accounting firm that serves many Long Island districts. The Comptroller Audit webinar was presented by the Chief of Municipal Audits for the Long Island region of the NYS Comptroller's office, Mr. Ira McCracken. These workshops provided valuable insight and information to help school board members and members of the governance team to help in their fiduciary roles with proper oversight. These professional development opportunities were well attended with representatives from over 50 different districts from Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Thanks to our event sponsors *Ark Technologies and Bold Voting Systems* for their support of N-SSBA.



N-SSBA Hosting a FREE Online Webinar on Legal Issues Board Members Should Know About!

There are 2 important cases that are before the United States Supreme Court that can have far reaching implications for elected officials including school board members. Howard Miller, Esq. from Bond Schoeneck & King will explain what the legal implications can be and how best to avoid exposure from potentially violating someone's first amendment rights on your social media page! He will also explain how school board members are mandated reporters in their roles as school officials. So contact your district clerks to register for this **FREE** online webinar which will take place on **January 11, 2024 starting at 6:30pm.**



Calendar of Upcoming Events

N-SSBA In the News

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

[Newsday AI and ChatGPT 9.16.23](#)

[Newsday Manufacturing Day 2023 10.6.23](#)

[Newsday Vape pens disguised as school supplies 10.23.23](#)

[Newsday COVID creates tech boom in schools 11.3.23](#)

[Mike LiPetri podcast](#)

January 11, 2024

Online Webinar

Legal Implications of Social Media and Board Members as Mandatory Reporters 6:30pm

January 25, 2024

Annual Joint Conference with the Nassau & Suffolk Superintendents' Assoc. Hilton Long Island, Huntington 6pm

March 12, 2024

Online Webinar

Communications during Crisis Management "Avoid the crisis within the crisis" 6:30pm

May 30, 2024

Annual Business & School Board Service Award Dinner, The Hamlet, Commack 6pm

From the N-SSBA Archives December 12, 1979 Semi-Annual Membership Dinner

NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION Semi-Annual Membership Dinner Meeting December 12, 1979

The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Semi-Annual Membership Dinner Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 12, 1979 at the Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury, New York. The meeting convened at 8:20 p.m. with Mr. Alvin Delman presiding.

Introductions of the honored guests were made by the President. Some of those included were: Ms. Sheila Cohen, Nassau District Director, N. Y. State PTA; Ms. Ethel Abbott, Suffolk District Director of N. Y. State PTA; Ms. Mimi Etlin, Chairman, L. I. Educational Conference Board; Robert Molloy, President, Nassau County Chief School Officers Association; Colleen Gray, Field Representative, NYSSBA; and Mr. Dale Hickham, Research Liaison, Education Commission of the States.

Mr. Delman introduced Mr. Seymour Weiner, who read the remarks of Mr. Theodore Black, Chancellor of the N. Y. State Board of Regents. Chancellor Black was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. A copy of Chancellor Black's predictions for 1980 are attached.

Mr. Delman then introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Dale Hickman, Research Liaison, Education Commission of the States. Mr. Hickman talked about the work of the Task Force and the direction he felt it was heading and stressed that they hoped to arrive at a goal that is politically feasible both in equity and excellence. He reviewed the Task Force calendar which included basic school finance study; fiscal capacity; tax burden research and cost study for education for the handicapped. A study of the problems of cities with constitutional tax limits will begin in January. The final work of the Task Force will be delayed until after the Court of Appeals decision of the Levittown case. A question and answer period followed.

Proposed Change in By-Laws

A motion was made by Mr. Auerbach to adopt the proposed amendment to the By-Laws. The motion was seconded by Mr. LoFaso. Mr. Auerbach explained that the intent of the change is to make use of the special areas of expertise from individuals who have served in various capacities of the Executive Committee and the N. Y. State School Boards Association. The motion was carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.