



Newsline 12/2021 edition

SERVICE, SUPPORT, & ADVOCACY

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 December 2021

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SAVE THE DATES: 1/6/22 & 1/31/22

Education Law 2D & Cyber Security

What is it? And what you need to know as a Board Member.

Cyber Security, ransomware, NYS Ed Law 2D, costs, risk assessment and why does it matter? As has been widely reported over the last few years, the issue of securing the private and protected data that school districts collect is of growing importance and has made school districts ripe targets for cyber-attacks as seen by over a dozen school systems across Long Island.

As members of your district’s Board of Education, what are the areas of concern that should be reviewed? Policy changes, budget investments, and how this impacts internal audit functions going forward, are many of the items that will be discussed and presented in a two part event.

The first part will be a complimentary online event that will be co-hosted by N-SSBA and Nawrocki & Smith, LLC a public accounting firm that performs internal audits for school districts across Long Island and New York State. They will share what they look for when performing internal audits and risks assessments specific to technology security and infrastructure. They will also explain NYS Education Law 2D, and what you need to be aware of for compliance and deadlines.

The second part of the event, will be held at our in-person Annual Joint Conference with the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association (SCSSA) and the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents (NCCSS) on Monday, January 31, 2022. Venue and time to be determined.

Information and registration for both events will be going out to your district clerks. Follow up with them to make sure you and your entire governance team are registered for this vitally important event that will impact school operations for many years ahead.

Inside this issue

N-SSBA in the News.....2
 Your schools on the radio.....2
 Meet Your Executive Committee...3
 President’s Message.....4
 NYSSBA meets with N-SSBA team.4
 Cyber Security Grants5
 N-SSBA resolutions meeting.....5
 Upcoming Events6





N-SSBA in the News

N-SSBA is routinely called upon as a resource for our local media to comment on a variety of issues relevant to education as they come up. Recently the Association’s Executive Director was contacted by both Newsday and News 12 to comment on a few issues:

[‘Unruly’ behavior has disrupted school board meetings across LI. Here’s why. | Newsday](#)

[Early signs point to promising year for funding of New York State public schools | Newsday](#)

[Gov. Hochul: New York committed to providing billions of dollars to school districts in the state \(news12.com\)](#)



N-SSBA By The Numbers

Total Students-	396,914
Total Districts-	105
Total BOCES-	3
Total Board members-	812

N-SSBA

Serving Long Island School Boards since 1959

Have Your School and Students On The Radio!

“Spotlight on Long Island Schools” on LINewsRadio 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 new service that N-SSBA will be offering its member districts as a way to give your students and staff a truly unique experience and 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 most recent shows that were recorded:

<https://soundcloud.com/jvcbroadcasting/spotlight-on-long-island-schools-mattituck-cutchogue-school-district-10-23-21?si=222033c032364c7593ca8415cec4e292>

<https://soundcloud.com/jvcbroadcasting/spotlight-on-long-island-schools-william-floyd-school-district-11-6-21?si=5d67c9a010e64486a128181220b57711>

<https://soundcloud.com/jvcbroadcasting/spotlight-on-long-island-schools-freeport-school-district-11-20-21>



Meet Your Executive Committee Members!

N-SSBA Officers



Michael Kelly
President
Bethpage



Susan Lipman
Vice President-Suffolk
Eastern Suffolk BOCES



Lawrence Greenstein
Vice-President-Nassau
Nassau BOCES



Matthew Clareen
Secretary/Treasurer
Islip

Nassau County Executive Committee Members



Karen Brohm
West Hempstead



Jeanne D'Esposito
Malverne



Charmise Desire
Uniondale



Catherine Flanagan
Plainedge



Tracy Frankel
Syosset



Stuart Kaplan
Oceanside



Brian Nolan
Locust Valley



Michael Pappas
Levittown



Patricia Rudd
New Hyde Park-
Garden City Park

Suffolk County Executive Committee Members



Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D.
South Huntington



Kelli Anne Jennings
Patchogue-Medford



Juan Leon
Amityville



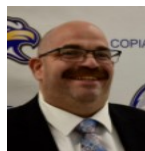
Chris Picini
South Country



Dawn Sharrock
Middle Country



Johanna Testa
Miller Place



Kenneth Urban
Copiague



Norman Wagner
Central Islip



John Verdone
N-SSBA
Immediate Past-President
Sayville

SAVE THE DATE 1/31/22!

N-SSBA is proud to once again partner with our local Superintendents' Associations NCCSS and SCSSA to host our annual Joint Conference.

This conference will bring relevant timely information to our districts' governance teams while we all gear up for the upcoming legislative and advocacy sessions, as well as our upcoming budget and trustee election season.



Picture Your
Company's AD here

For more information
about advertising in
our newsletter email

info@nssba.org

Or call 516-781-2053

School District Spotlight!

In future editions, we want to highlight our amazing school districts throughout Nassau and Suffolk.

Have your district and or public relations personnel send us your school district press releases for consideration of stories in future editions.

We want all of our members to read about the things your district is proud of or some innovative programming.

Highlight your district here, send us story ideas, or press releases to info@nssba.org.

ICYMI— A new law signed by Governor Hochul now requires public bodies including school districts, to post public meeting minutes on their websites and be available to the public within 2 weeks of the meeting date. This change to the Open Meetings Law is effective immediately.

Also, the Governor signed into law changes to Child Safety Zones to include violent crime statistics and building vacancies as part of the criteria for determining the zones.

Did you know? Employees are entitled to 4 hours paid leave for booster shots just like they were for other vaccination appointments.

A Message From Our President Michael Kelly

As we approach the end of 2021 and the beginning of the new year, we were hoping to see the light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel. Instead, we are discussing the effects of the Delta variant and adding a new term, Omicron variant, to our conversations. In addition, the Governor has issued an extension of the NYS mask mandate for another 90 days. One area of concern that continues to linger is “COVID fatigue.” Teachers and staff may be feeling stressed beyond the norm, and our students may be having an equally difficult time. As school board members, we are not able to make COVID go away. However, we can acknowledge that some of our staff and students are struggling with their own personal issues around the pandemic so we should not be quick to judge anyone. While this may not have been the news we were looking for, we should reflect on the many positive outcomes during the first few months of the school year. In September our schools were able to open full time for in-person learning and with a very successful fall sports program. In addition, my home district and hopefully yours began in-person extracurricular programs and have invited parents back into our school buildings to attend a variety of events. I am looking forward to the upcoming in-person concerts being performed by our students. It is important that we begin to introduce some “normalcy” into our school days. As was recently reported by Newsday, many districts have introduced wellness rooms and programs to allow staff and

students to de-stress. Working with our superintendents, we need to ensure that they have the resources to meet this need and either implement or enhance our mental health and wellness programs. While these programs are an



important part of any district, we must also work to identify individuals who may be showing the effects of the pandemic stress but who may have not reached out for assistance.

A bright spot is that the holiday season is upon us. The holidays are about spending time with family and friends and creating happy memories that will last a lifetime. On a personal note, my wife Clare and I are looking forward to spending a first Christmas with our new granddaughter, Piper Jane.

In closing, during this special time of the year, I want to make sure you know how much each of you are appreciated for all the hard work that you do. May you and your family enjoy this holiday season and may the new year bring good health and happiness to all of you.

Executive Director of NYSSBA meets with N-SSBA team

Bob Schneider recently stopped by the offices of N-SSBA to meet with Executive Director Lorraine Deller and the rest of the N-SSBA team to discuss the current issues our local districts are facing, and upcoming legislative priorities. NYSSBA and N-SSBA have enjoyed a long term collaborative partnership helping support our Boards of Education and advocating for public education.



Funding For Cyber Security Available Through The Department of Homeland Security

As announced by U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer at a press conference at the Manhasset Middle School, there is now a \$1 billion grant included in the recently signed federal infrastructure bill. School districts are encouraged to apply for the Department of Homeland Security Cyber Security Grant.

Money is available to schools to recover from ransomware attacks and also help with investments to improve their infrastructure to guard against future cyber security attacks. Senator Schumer urged all districts including those that have not been attacked to apply for this grant. "We know how to build defenses of this armor but it's very expensive" Senator Schumer stated.

The \$1 billion grant will provide for cyber security assistance over the next 4 years. He did state the funds cannot be used to pay ransom to the hackers themselves. Critical information is maintained by districts including protected student information as well as private information on employees.

Data breaches such as these can expose districts with financial implications beyond the attack itself. In addition, school districts dependency on their technology systems to be operating all during the day could critically impede a district's ability to function.

N-SSBA Holds Annual Resolutions Meeting

On September 29, 2021, N-SSBA held its annual Resolutions Meeting to review proposed Resolutions being considered to be adopted by the State Association.

Legislation Chair and Association Secretary/Treasurer, Matthew Claren (Islip) chaired this virtual meeting which had over 100 individuals registered. Special guests included NYSSBA Executive Director Robert Schneider and Governmental Relations Director Brian Fessler who offered insight and commentary when needed on the various resolutions being considered.

Together with Vice Chair of the Legislation Committee Charmise Desire, (Uniondale) the resolutions and rationales were presented to the attendees and feedback was made by votes on the resolutions. It was also noted by N-SSBA Executive Director, Lorraine Deller that Matthew

and Charmise also represented Areas 12 & 11 respectively at the Resolutions Committee at the State Association and they were thanked for their time and attention to this on behalf of our Association.

There were a total of 25 resolutions presented and discussed. 17 were recommended for adoption and 8 were not recommended. There was also 1 by-law amendment considered as well, and this by-law amendment was not supported by the Association's membership.

The results of this meeting and the Association's memberships' positions were shared with our districts so that their respective voting delegates had this information available to them ahead of NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting where the resolutions/amendments were formally considered and voted on.



**HASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
2021 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS WORKSHEET
FOR NYSSBA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021 - VIRTUAL**

KEY: R Recommend Support M Move to Committee
NR Not Recommended Support ND No Decision
Sa Support Resolution if Amended NM Not to be Moved

The 2021 NYSSBA "Resolutions Book" does not provide titles for proposed resolutions.

In order to facilitate reference and discussion, N-SSBA has provided a brief explanation of the subject matter of each Resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	RESOLUTION MEETING	NYSSBA BUSINESS MEETING
1. <i>Sunsetting Resolution:</i> NYSSBA calls upon state Legislature & Governor to reform NYS education funding in accordance with the following tenets: Adequacy, Equity, Flexibility, Predictability & Clarity. (NYSSBA Board of Directors)	R	R	Passed
2. <i>Sunsetting Resolution:</i> NYSSBA to support state proposals affecting public education: college & career readiness, equity & adequacy in funding, promoting efficiency & cost effectiveness; high expectation for all students; innovative approaches & assessments; community engagement and regional cooperation. (NYSSBA Board of Directors)	R	R	Passed
3. <i>Sunsetting Resolution:</i> NYSSBA to support proposals that would allow students with disabilities to be tested at their developmental age. (NYSSBA Board of Directors)	R	R	Passed
4. <i>Sunsetting Resolution:</i> NYSSBA to support proposals that would increase state and federal reimbursements for school meals. (NYSSBA Board of Directors)	R	R	Passed
5. NYSSBA to support proposals that would generate new state revenues with the dedicated purpose of funding education. (NYSSBA Board of Directors)	R	R	Passed
6. NYSSBA to support legislation to amend education law to permit voters to obtain absentee ballots for school board elections and budget votes when such are scheduled on a day coinciding with a religious holiday and to continue to permit districts to utilize the existing option to alter date of the vote if uniform budget date falls on a religious holiday. (Nessey BOCES Board)	R	R	Passed

About N-SSBA

To provide an organization which will voice the opinions of its members on legislative and other pertinent matters. We work jointly with other associations in the Long Island educational community to encourage cooperation among member boards in the interest of better education for the students we serve. To provide for the exchange of information of "best practices" and successful strategies and programs. We also assist in furthering the mutual objectives of this Association and the New York State School Boards Association

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 1/6/22– N-SSBA’s Complimentary Webinar on Cyber Security**
- 1/10/22– N-SSBA Joint Finance & Legislation Committee Meeting**
- 1/13/22– Suffolk Region PTA Presidents’ & Principals’ Dinner**
- 1/20/22– N-SSBA Executive Committee Meeting**
- 1/22/22– 1/24/22– NSBA National Advocacy Institute - Washington, DC**
- 1/31/22– N-SSBA/NCCSS/SCSSA Joint Conference**
- 2/2/22– NYSSBA’s Virtual Capital Conference**
- 2/5/22– Longwood Legislative Breakfast**
- 2/9/22– NYSSBA’s In-person Lobby Day in Albany**



***On behalf of the entire
N-SSBA team we want to wish you and
your families
A Happy and Healthy Holiday Season***