

N-SSBA

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association

SERVICE, SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

Newsline June 2022 edition

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N-SSBA's 62nd Annual Business Meeting

At the Annual Business Meeting held on May 25, 2022, Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association honored the critical role played by Long Island's Boards of Education in confronting the challenges presented over the course of intense and unprecedented times.

N-SSBA's President, Michael Kelly, remarked "Who best to recognize the pressures and gravity of the decision making you faced and the value of your contributions other than your colleagues who serve on the Executive Committee of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association?"

In addition to the approval of the annual budget, the slate of officers and executive committee members for the upcoming year were approved. The Association also approved changes to the by-laws.

The Association also recognized the retirements of staff members Vivian Molitor, Office Manager and Lorraine Deller, Executive Director.

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Central Islip's Board President Norman Wagner inducted into The Central Islip Board of Education Hall of Fame.

On May 9, 2022 Norman Wagner was inducted into the Board of Education Hall of Fame at a ceremony prior to a regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting. Mr. Wagner has served the Central Islip community in various leadership roles in addition to the board of education for nearly 40 years. Mr. Wagner also serves on N-SSBA's Executive Committee.

Offshore Wind Energy Coming to Long Island

N-SSBA recently attended two important roundtable discussions about the new industry coming to Long Island, Offshore Wind. There are two developments already underway on the east end of Long Island with two more planned for the western part of Long Island near Jones Beach. This renewable energy source is a top priority for the State of New York and is providing the Long Island region with a unique opportunity of bringing a brand new industry to our region. By 2030, it is estimated that 70% of the energy needs in New York will be provided with reusable energy. NYS has a goal that by 2040 all energy needs will be electric and carbon free.

This will provide the need for workforce and on-going maintenance of operations for the wind farms that will be built. \$500 million has been allocated for OSW by NYS in this year's approved budget. It is estimated that this industry will create ten new jobs for every one energy sector job lost during the transition to renewable energy.

The two projects currently underway are the Sunrise and Southfork Wind Farms. The two companies that are developing the windfarms out east are Ørsted and Eversource. They both have extensive experience in this industry globally. In addition to workforce needs, there will be opportunities for school districts to collaborate with programming for the classrooms on all levels. It could also impact CTE offerings on Long Island as well. N-SSBA will continue to attend and play an active role in these meetings and discussions and update you as these projects move forward.



“We all have the potential to move the world, and the world is ready to be moved” – Harry Chapin



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 new service that N-SSBA is offering to its member districts as a way to give your students and staff a truly unique experience. It will give 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:

CTRL + click on the links below

[Cold Spring Harbor SD](#) [East Williston SD](#) [Huntington SD](#) [Eastern Suffolk BOCES](#)

[Carle Place SD](#) [North Babylon SD](#) [Herricks SD](#) [Franklin Square SD](#)

[Southampton Town SRO Program](#) [Smithtown SD](#)

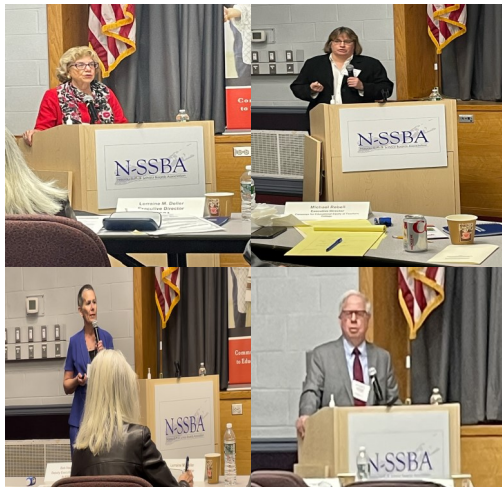
N-SSBA Co-Hosts School Funding Summit

On Friday, May 6, 2022, N-SSBA co-hosted a School Funding Summit together with the Rural School Boards Association. It was held at the Western Suffolk BOCES Conference Center and was a full day event. The attendees included school board members, superintendents, business officials and other educational leaders from Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

The guest speakers were NYS Senator Shelly Mayer who chairs the Senate Education Committee, Michael Rebell, Executive Director of Campaign for Educational Equity at Teacher's College, Christina Coughlin, Assistant Commissioner from the NYS Education Department, and Dr. Julie Lutz, COO of Eastern Suffolk BOCES.

The conversation focused on what happens after the Foundation Aid Formula is fully funded as promised after next year and the concerns surrounding so many districts being on save harmless. The areas covered by the various speakers included; updating data used for the formula, changing demographics on Long Island, long term economic impact, sustainability, and holding to the constitutional responsibility of a sound basic education for all students in New York State. It was noted by Senator Mayer that this was the first discussion of this nature in NY that she was aware of and was appreciative of the opportunity to share her thoughts on the subject.

The program concluded with a panel discussion with Dave Little, Executive Director of the Rural School Boards Association, Brian Cechnicki, Executive Director of ASBO NY, and Brian Fessler, Director of Governmental Relations for NYSSBA.



N-SSBA Attends Meeting with Top Law Enforcement Officials from Suffolk County

N-SSBA recently attended a meeting hosted by the Long Island Association with Suffolk County's District Attorney, Sherriff, and Police Commissioner. Mr. Matt Cohen, CEO and President of the LIA, opened the meeting stressing why public safety is an advocacy priority for this business association. "Public Safety is an economic development issue" Mr. Cohen said. County Executive Bellone said "Public safety is a pre-requisite to prosperity".



Sherriff Toulon discussed how he implemented the Sandy Hook Promise initiative and prior to the shut down from COVID was visiting one to two schools per week. He said he'd rather get to the kids first before they get to him in the county jails. Police Commissioner Harrison said his driving philosophy is being a "victims advocate" and is a strong supporter of neighborhood policing. District Attorney Tierney said his office is committed to prosecuting gang, gun, and drug violence vigorously, and is establishing a Criminals Enterprise Investigations Unit to prosecute gang members more effectively.

Sayville Board of Education Recognizes Norm deVenau For 18 Years of Service

On June 9, 2022 the Sayville Board of Education celebrated the 18 years of service to the Board of Education by Norm deVenau. He was also recognized for his over 40 years of service to the Sayville community. Norm was also an active board member attending events in Albany. Norm was the recipient of N-SSBA's Outstanding School Board Service Award in 2014 (pictured below).



Plainedge Board President & N-SSBA Executive Committee Member Catherine Flanagan Named Woman of Distinction by the Town of Oyster Bay

Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino and members of the Town Board hosted a special ceremony to recognize exceptional women who have significantly given back to their communities. This year's ceremony recognized 11 'Women of Distinction' who live and work throughout the Town of Oyster Bay.



Eye On Albany

NYS Assemblyman Fred Thiele (I-Sag Harbor) has put forward a bill to explore making LIPA a full public utility as opposed to the current partial public utility as it operates today with subcontracting out to PSE&G. Assemblyman Thiele is working together with Senator Jim Gaughran (D-Northport) on this. We will follow this and the impact this may have on PILOTS going forward. [The bill numbers are A9035 and S7576](#)

Nassau BOCES 2022 Education Partners Honorees



A Message From Our President, Michael Kelly

Congratulations, you have made it through another school year. The beginning of the year saw schools facing a variety of issues related to COVID-19 and the Omicron variant. As we progressed through the year, we were relieved to see COVID rates decrease dramatically, the elimination of the state mask mandate and school activities move to a more normal state.

As we near the end of the school year, June is an exciting time as we celebrate field days, award ceremonies, proms, and graduations. As board members, it is a proud moment as we watch our senior class walk across the stage to accept their diplomas and move to the next stage of their lives. It is an even prouder moment if you have the chance to hand that diploma to your child, family member or friend.

Congratulations are also in order for the 99% of the 675 school districts that had their budgets pass statewide. As reported by the NYSSBA, this success rate continues a trend over the past 15 years of over a 90% statewide school budget passing rate. Hopefully the seven districts across the state that had their budgets defeated will have an approved budget after a revote.

This year also saw an increased interest in local school board elections. According to NYSED data, this interest in school board elections has led to over a 20% increase in voter participation over last year and the highest in-person vote total since 2014. To those school board members who were reelected, we offer our heartiest congratulations and to those members who either decided not to run or were not reelected, we say thank you for your

past service.

As I mentioned earlier, June is an exciting time as we end the school year, but it is also a bittersweet time here at the N-SSBA. After a 22-year



career as our Executive Director, it is time to say goodbye to Lorraine Deller who is retiring. Lorraine is a true example of what it means to dedicate a life to the education of our students here on Long Island. Prior to becoming our Executive Director, Lorraine began as a volunteer at the Baldwin Schools PTA and was encouraged to run for and won a seat on the Baldwin Board of Education and eventually served as its president. Lorraine's retirement was recently celebrated with a retirement dinner at Chateau La Mer where she was honored by numerous friends and family. We wish Lorraine a long and healthy retirement to spend more time with her family and her passion for gardening.

While we wish Lorraine farewell, we also wish a warm welcome to Robert Vecchio as our new Executive Director. Bob has been serving as our Deputy Executive Director for the past year. We wish him the best of luck.

In closing, I wish each of you a relaxing and enjoyable summer and, as always, thank you for your service to your community.

N-SSBA Welcomes Newly Elected Board of Education Members

On June 9th, N-SSBA hosted a dinner meeting for newly elected Board of Education trustees from across Long Island. N-SSBA Executive Committee members Mary Jo O'Hagan (Baldwin) and Brian Sales (Copiague) were featured speakers. The comments to the newly elected centered on best practices for Board Trustees and how highly functioning governance teams operate. It was an overview of things to do, and things to avoid.

This was also a great opportunity for new members to network with other trustees and possibly form contacts as a resource for the future. We want to thank our event partners Belfor Property Restoration and Syntax for their support of this important event.



Teams from Bethpage, Great Neck South, & Westhampton Beach Compete in the First Robotics Championship in Houston, Texas



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

7/19/22	NYSSBA Summer Law Conference - Long Island
8/12/22 - 8/13/22	NYSSBA Summer Leadership Academy - Albany
9/28/22	N-SSBA Annual Resolutions Meeting - Long Island
9/30/22	NYSSBA Board Officer's Academy - Long Island
10/14/22 - 10/15/22	NYSSBA New Board Member Academy - Long Island
10/27/22 - 10/29/22	NYSSBA Annual Convention & Education Expo—

Celebrating Lorraine Deller's Lifetime of Advocacy for Public Education

