PASA Professional Development Program

Use the Summer to Plan Your Learning Year!

Again in 2018-19, PASA will be offering a wide range of professional development programs focused both on YOUR needs as a school system leader AND growing and supporting those who are aspiring to higher levels of leadership.

Take some time this summer to review the many PASA options available in 2018-19 – and plan your learning year!

(*Registration open!)

New Superintendents’ Academy
July 12-13: Strategic & Cultural Leadership*
Sept. 26-27: Systems Leadership
Jan. 8-9: Professional & Community Leadership

PASA Office – Harrisburg
For new and aspiring/soon-to-be superintendents, this three-part Academy is designed to provide practical information and tools to assist the superintendent’s entry into his or her new position AND, as a bonus, provides an opportunity to gain a statewide perspective from both participants and Academy session leaders representing the diversity of districts across the commonwealth.

See p. 13 for more information.

PA Education Leadership Summit*
July 29-31
State College
Join your colleagues for a three-day event featuring keynote speakers, high quality breakout sessions, table talks on hot topics, and district team planning and job-alike sessions that will provide practical ideas that can be immediately reviewed and discussed at the summit and utilized at the district level.

See more online at www.pasa-net.org/led-summit.

Webinar Series
Beginning in September (TBA)
Watch for details about the upcoming webinar series, focused on helping you “Avoid the Pitfalls” in your professional career. Topics will include: Educator Discipline Act (mandatory reporting, PA Professional Standards & Practices), PSERS issues (retirement, return-to-service, pension forfeitures), the PA Ethics Act and implications for public officials and public employees, and the leader’s role in guiding board members about their governance roles concerning the Sunshine Law and use of email/social media.

See Professional Development, page 4

PASA/PSBA School Leadership Conference*
October 17-19
Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
Join your colleagues, hear from nationally known presenters, take advantage of numerous educational sessions, see the latest educational tools and services showcased in the Exhibit Hall, and celebrate student programs and talents.

See p. 12 for more information.

No PASA Dues Increase for 2018-19
Renew Your Membership Today!

PASA is working in Harrisburg and throughout the Commonwealth – and AASA is working for you in Washington D.C. – to influence policy, build support for public education, and provide school administrators with both the information and professional development they need. Membership in both PASA, your professional state organization, and in AASA, the only national organization representing the interests of school district superintendents, is vital for you personally, for the profession and for public education.

Membership renewal information was mailed early this month. Start your summer by renewing your membership for 2018-19 – and stay connected to YOUR professional associations!

The PASA membership year runs from October 1 through September 30.

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The **PASA Flyer** is published monthly by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators.

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**From the Executive Director...Dr. Mark DiRocco**

**The State Budget Impact on Local Districts**

The budget process in Harrisburg has been rather quiet and there remains optimism that the state budget will be passed on time by June 30 with the current levels of increased subsidy from the governor’s proposal intact. The good news is that an additional $100 million in basic subsidy and $20 million in special education subsidy remains in the budget, and we have not heard any opposition to those increases.

The bad news is that increased expenses in mandated costs will exceed the $120 million in new state money. In fact, PSERS alone will require districts to increase their share of pension contributions by more than $120 million in the coming year. In addition, special education costs are expected to rise by 14% and charter school cost are expected to increase by 13%.

Once again, local districts are suffering a loss of revenue before the ink is dry on their budget.

Some districts have the capacity to overcome these losses due to their tax base and willingness of their boards and communities to support their educational programs through real estate tax increases. Other districts are not so fortunate.

The most recent PASA/PASBO budget survey painted a discouraging financial picture for many school districts as they struggle to meet the needs of their students. Of the 265 districts that responded to the annual spring budget survey:

- 80% are shuffling staff across the district to cover open positions.
- 77% expect to raise property taxes for 2018-2019.
- 51% are deferring much needed building maintenance.
- 48% anticipate their district’s financial condition will be worse next year than this year.
- 47% will not fill vacancies left by retirements or resignations.
- 39% are increasing class size.
- 31% will delay new or renovation building projects.
- 24% are eliminating electives at the secondary level.
- 17% are reducing or eliminating field trips for students.
- 12% are reducing or eliminating summer school programs.
- 11% will delay new curriculum implementation
- 9% will borrow money to balance their budgets.
- 4% anticipate reducing or eliminating kindergarten.

These disheartening survey results help show the disparity that exists among our school districts. Reducing staff, cutting programs, and increasing property taxes continues to leave many districts suffering a slow loss of programming for their students, while they ask their local community to pick up more of the tab for state and federal mandates. Some districts have made the above cuts and tax increases for five consecutive years. Unfortunately, it is the students who suffer the most when schools lose programs and personnel.

However, it doesn’t end there.

The school shootings across the nation this year have placed school safety at the top of school districts’ budget concerns. Many school leaders are struggling to find funds to improve safety for students and staff without taking away from their academic programs and activities.

The PASA/PASBO Survey revealed the following safety needs for school districts:

- 67% need additional training for school staff and security personnel.
- 64% need more security cameras.
- 57% need building infrastructure modifications.
- 48% would like to hire additional school security personnel.
- 20% want to hire more guidance counselors and social workers.

Continued on next page
NEWS RECAP
Don’t forget to check the PASA website for the weekly Education Update that provides a summary of up-to-date legislative, state and national education news. For more information on the following news briefs, see the PASA Web site at www.pasa-net.org. (Click on “News and Advocacy” to access the current and archived updates.) And follow us on Twitter for the latest updates @PASASupts.

School Safety
More School Shootings: Ten students and teachers were killed and ten others injured by a student gunman on May 18 in a Santa Fe high school. A 13-year-old male student opened fire at a suburban Indianapolis middle school the morning of May 25, injuring an adult and a child before being taken into custody. According to Education Week, at least 14 school shootings with injuries or death have occurred this year, with 32 killed, among them 26 students, and 67 people injured.

Safety in Schools: Numerous House and Senate bills addressing school safety continue to be considered, including bills that would allow executive session to discuss security issues, provide an anonymous tip line for safety threats, increase the annual number of evacuation drills and require depression screening as part of the sixth grade health and wellness check. Although none have really crossed the finish line at this point, expect some school safety provisions (and some funding) to be included as part of the state budget package.

Federal Task Force: Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos raised some eyebrows in Washington earlier this month when she indicated that the Federal School Safety Commission, which has not been very active (or transparent) thus far, will not be examining the role of guns in school violence. In a recent listening session, advocates representing numerous education organizations provided information and recommendations, although few of the official commissioners were in attendance.

State Budget News
Revenue Update: Pennsylvania collected $2.5 billion in General Fund revenue in May, which was $42.6 million, or 1.7 percent, less than anticipated. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total $31.5 billion, which is $121.5 million, or 0.4 percent, above estimate.

State Budget Update: With a more positive revenue picture, behind-the-scenes discussion are picking up concerning a final budget plan. As reported last month, there continues to be widespread and significant support for the proposed education line-items.

PlanCon Report: The PlanCon Advisory Committee has approved its final report and recommendations outlining the parameters for a future reimbursement program for school construction, which include simplifying the application process, incentivizing districts to build more energy efficient buildings, providing a more predictable and formula-based reimbursement rate based, in part, on school district wealth, and Reserving 20 percent of all state reimbursement for repair and maintenance. The report made no specific recommendations for funding the program, however.

In Legislative News
Session Schedule: Both the House and Senate are in session during the month of June and will remain in session until the budget and corresponding legislation is finalized.

Vouchers: The Senate Education Committee on May 22 approved SB 2, a bill that would provide “Education Savings Accounts” (vouchers) to students in “low achieving” schools for private school tuition, while simultaneously reducing funding to those “low achieving” schools for the same amount. The bill as introduced also allows parents to take the vouchers with them even if they change districts. PASA strongly opposes this bill.

Graduation Requirements: The Senate Education Committee this week approved SB 1095. The bill would eliminate proficiency on the Keystone Exams as a requirement for graduation and instead provide other options for students to demonstrate proficiency as a condition for graduation. It is likely that language addressing the graduation requirement will be included in the omnibus School Code bill passed with the budget. PASA opposes the use of Keystone Exams for graduation purposes and supports flexibility in the use of assessments to determine student proficiency.

Civics Test: Both the House and Senate passed and sent to Gov. Wolf, HB 564, which requires local school districts to administer at least once to students in grades 7-12 a locally developed civics test, require districts to provide students who pass with an official certificate, and require the PDE to survey LEAs concerning compliance with the requirement. The Governor has until June 21 to sign the bill.

Legislator Changes: Three new House members, winners in a special election to fill vacant seats, were sworn into office this month: Helen Tai (D-Bucks), Timothy O’Neal (R-Washington) and Clint Owlett (R-Tioga). In addition, state Sen. Scott Wagner (R-York) has resigned his seat in order to focus on his gubernatorial campaign.

State News
School Policy Case: A federal appeals court panel ruled on May 24 that a Pennsylvania school district can allow a transgender student to use restrooms and locker rooms corresponding to their sexual identity. The panel denied a challenge brought by several non-transgender students alleging their rights to privacy were violated by the district’s policy.


See At the Capitol, page 4

June 2018
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PASA Flyer
At the Capitol
Continued from page 3

National News
Federal Transgender Decision: A federal district judge last month ruled that Title IX and the equal-protection clause of the 14th amendment protect transgender students from discrimination. The decision allows to go forward a lawsuit brought by a transgender student against his former school district in Virginia.

Net Neutrality: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decision last December to repeal net neutrality rules prohibiting broadband providers from prioritizing web traffic went into effect this month. Both consumers and schools remain concerned about the loss of these protections, which effectively forces all consumers (including school districts) to “police” their own Internet providers to make sure they are not slowing or restricting access to sites based on contracts and business practices.

COMING UP
It’s all about the budget from now until June 30, as seemingly productive talks about spending and a School Code bill continue behind the scenes. Once that work is done, lawmakers will go home for the summer and will not return until September, in what will be a “lame duck” session – and a contentious election season. As always, stay tuned for the latest information by following us on Twitter @ PASAupts.

PASA, along with the PA Principals Association and PARSS, is planning a Lobby Day on Tuesday, June 19. Plan to join us – numbers matter! Contact Deb Banks at dbanks@pasa-net.org if you can participate.

SUMMER HOURS
Summer hours for the PASA office (through August 31) are as follows:
Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fridays: 8 a.m. to noon

Professional Development
Continued from page 1

NEW! PA Summit for Assistant Superintendents*
October 25
PASA Office – Harrisburg
This one-of-a-kind event brings together Assistant Superintendent colleagues from across the Commonwealth to focus on research theory and the practical application of the Assistant Superintendent's critical leadership behaviors that most favorably impact student outcomes. Featured Presenter: Dr. Tracey Severns
See more online at https://www.pasa-net.org/asstsuptsummit.

Aspiring to Leadership Workshops*
Aspiring to Central Office/District Cabinet
Nov. 1 (I.U. 3) and Jan. 31 (PASA)
Aspiring to the Superintendency
Nov. 2 (I.U. 3) and Feb. 1 (PASA)
These workshops are designed to provide practical information and tools to assist those considering a future career as a district cabinet-level leader and/or superintendent. Help grow strong leaders for Pennsylvania Schools – encourage aspiring leaders in your district to attend! See more online at https://www.pasa-net.org/aspiring.

“Education Congress” (Watch for a new name for this event!)
March 17-18 – SAVE THE DATE!
Hilton Harrisburg
Watch for details about this annual event, that brings school system leaders together to focus on key education issues through keynote presentations, sessions and discussion.

Women’s Caucus Conference
May 13-15 – SAVE THE DATE!
Hotel Hershey
This three-day program provides women in school administration an opportunity to network, learn strategies to improve student learning, support each other and encourage women to aspire to higher levels of school administration.

Nominations Due July 27 Online
PASA Now Seeking Nominations for 2019 PA Superintendent of the Year

PASA and the American Association of School Administrators are now seeking nominations for 2019 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year.

The Superintendent of the Year program, sponsored by VALIC and AASA, pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead the nation’s public schools. This is the 31th year for the award program.

Each candidate for Superintendent of the Year will be judged on the following criteria:

Leadership for Learning – creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in his or her school system.
Communication – strength in both personal and organizational communication.
Professionalism – constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, while providing professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the education team.
Community Involvement – active participation in local community activities and an understanding of regional, national, and international issues.

To be considered for National Superintendent of the Year, a Pennsylvania applicant must first be selected as Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year by the PA Association of School Administrators (PASA).

Online nominations are due July 27.
See the PASA website for details on the nomination, application and selection process at https://www.pasa-net.org/soy.
Lost sight of the goal.

Ago varied significantly from ours as school superintendents, I believe, and made extremely difficult but influential decisions. They focus or their share of misfortune, toiled through hard times but maintained those around them. Each had an intense sense of purpose and never lost sight of the goal.

While the day-to-day work of these extraordinary leaders so long ago varied significantly from ours as school superintendents, I believe if we attend to the six bolded characteristics above, we can capture much of what is needed for successful 21st century leadership.

Take time this summer to enjoy a good leadership book. Happy summer everyone!

2) President Abraham Lincoln, 3) legendary historical leaders: 1) polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, 4) Nazi-resisting clergyman Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and 5) environmental crusader Rachel Carson. The context of each one’s leadership was unique and unlike the others in the book, yet they were all profoundly inspirational. The author uses their stories to inform 21st century leaders like us.

A few commonalities existed among these historical icons. They were threaded together by the author to underscore the traits today’s leaders must possess.

The most noted trait these five seemingly ordinary people exhibited was that each “led from their humanity.” They used their personal empathy to motivate and sustain others even in life and death situations. They each paid attention to the small details regarding the needs of others. Compassion, coupled with a huge dose of humility, helped them endure the crises in which they found themselves. Each had his or her share of misfortune, toiled through hard times but maintained focus, and made extremely difficult but influential decisions. They could see the big picture and envision the potential impact to all those around them. Each had an intense sense of purpose and never lost sight of the goal.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT’S PEN
...Learning from History
BY DR. EMILIE LONARDI, 2017-18 PASA PRESIDENT

Once in a while, I put down whatever educational leadership book I am reading and ground myself in a book that has no direct educational focus, but rather takes a broader look at leadership.

Recently, I read such a book, authored by Nancy Koehn called Forged in Crisis: The Power of Courageous Leadership in Turbulent Times.

In it, the author reviews the leadership of five (5) disparate historical leaders: 1) polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, 2) President Abraham Lincoln, 3) legendary abolitionist Frederick Douglass, 4) Nazi-resisting clergyman Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and 5) environmental crusader Rachel Carson. The context of each one’s leadership was unique and unlike the others in the book, yet they were all profoundly inspirational. The author uses their stories to inform 21st century leaders like us.

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UPCOMING DEADLINES & KEY DATES

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<td>June 29</td>
<td>Letters of Interest due for 2018-19 committee positions</td>
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<td>July 20</td>
<td>Nominations due for PASA Awards of Achievement</td>
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<td>July 27</td>
<td>Online nominations due for PA Superintendent of the Year</td>
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<td>August 31</td>
<td>Completed applications due for PA Superintendent of the Year</td>
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<td>October 1</td>
<td>2018-19 PASA Membership Year begins</td>
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PASA is again seeking nominations for three special awards recognizing leadership in public education in three areas: Service to the Profession - Demonstrating commitment to excellence as evidenced through notable service to the profession. Examples of this service may include developing an effective professional development program for school district educators, demonstrating leadership in administrator preparation programs, school study councils or other professional development efforts, or promoting the education profession through research, writing or organizational service.

Sponsored by: Horace Mann
Instructional Leadership - Demonstrating commitment to excellence in teaching and learning by developing, nurturing and supporting exemplary programs that support the academic achievement of particular student populations, enrich student learning in a particular content area, or implement strategies to enhance student learning across the curriculum.

Sponsored by: Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc.
Leadership in Public Education - Demonstrating commitment to school administration as a profession, to public education and to one’s colleagues, including participation in and leadership with the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators.

Sponsored by: PLGIT/PFM

All PASA members are eligible for these awards. Individuals may self-nominate or be nominated by their peers, staff or board. Those nominating/self-nominating should complete the PASA Awards nomination form and include and/or attach further information that will provide a judging panel with sufficient evidence to support the nomination.

The PASA Awards of Achievement will be presented in October during the PASA/PSBA Annual Conference in Hershey. A monetary award of $1,000 will be donated in each recipient’s name to a scholarship fund of his/her choice or to the Pennsylvania administrator preparation program of his/her choice.

Deadline for nominations is July 20.

For more information on the Awards of Achievement, see the PASA web site at www.pasa-net.org/pasaawards.

PASA thanks our Awards of Achievement sponsors for their continuing support in recognizing outstanding public school administrators in Pennsylvania.

Quick Glance: PASA Programs

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<td>Aspiring to Leadership Workshop (PASA office)</td>
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*PIL-approved
In anticipation of an upcoming family vacation which includes four grandchildren, ages 7 to 20, I read "iGen: Why Today’s Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood," by Jean M. Twenge. I saw the book as an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the iGen’ers, those born after 1994, approximately 24% of the American population.

The iGen’ers are easily recognizable with their smartphones in hand, eyes fixed on their screens, and fingers swiping hurriedly across them. Most of the time they are texting or “talking” via social media. Those under the age of 14 have lived most of their lives with smartphone, Internet and social networking access. Those 14 years and older embraced the uniqueness of social media when it became of age. Images and videos, with and without text, are iGen’ers’ primary means for exploring their own identities. The likes, loves, comments and followers they receive are their barometers for measuring their opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the iGen’ers, those born after 1994, approximately 24% of the American population.

The iGen’ers will continue to shape the world. As educators and family members, I believe it is important to understand and accept their uniqueness, listen and attend to their views and concerns, guide their decision-making, address unhealthy behaviors, and provide tools and environments in which they will learn and thrive. As a result of reading this book, I will not pass judgement on my grandchildren’s preferred way to communicate. I will connect with them via any means that works because my goals are to understand their perspectives and concerns and to continue to develop meaningful relationships with them.

I was surprised by her “in no hurry” description, as I tended to think that iGeners were “growing up” quickly. She found that children today spend more time in the company of their parents than earlier generations, with childhood often extending into adolescence. The author discusses this “slow life strategy” as more common in small families with cultivating parents. She uses “insulated, but not intrinsic” to address the fact that many spend a significant amount of time alone, and only connect to others through social media and texting. “Insecure” identifies the rise in anxiety and depression, and iGen’ers’ concerns about their safety. Unfortunately, we are all too well aware of this development.

“Independent” labels their rejection of traditional politics, religions and social rules, and “inclusive” labels their desire for gender, race and sexual orientation equality. I disagree with the author’s premise that the iGen’ers are “completely unprepared for adulthood,” and am hopeful that the long-term results of their attitudes and values will be positive and refreshing.

The purpose of these descriptions is to enhance the reader’s insight into the implications of the trends and not to judge. Although our natural tendency might be to conclude that one generation’s actions and views are better than another’s, judgment is only relevant to one’s perspective and not helpful to building relationships and addressing the cultural impact.

The iGen’ers will continue to shape the world. As educators and family members, I believe it is important to understand and accept their uniqueness, listen and attend to their views and concerns, guide their decision-making, address unhealthy behaviors, and provide tools and environments in which they will learn and thrive. As a result of reading this book, I will not pass judgement on my grandchildren’s preferred way to communicate. I will connect with them via any means that works because my goals are to understand their perspectives and concerns and to continue to develop meaningful relationships with them.

Well…enough! I must sign-off. My iGen’ers will be arriving. I suppose I should download the Roblox app. I also should create my personal emoji. Wait…do they have one for a grandmother? At least I should try to maintain a snap streak. Maybe I will get a few likes and enhance my “Klout Score.” After all, YOLO! Lol!

The iGen’ers Are Here
BY CONNIE R KINDLER,
PASA CONSULTANT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Communication Tip of the Month

“Although e-mail, texting, social media and the like can be efficient for communicating, the potential harm often outweighs the benefits when the subject has the slightest bit of sensitivity. We sometimes say things in an electronic medium that we would not say in person…. Accepting that electronic communication is not disappearing, keep in mind that whatever you write in an email: 1) will be permanent; 2) will not be private (and most likely will be shared with others); 3) can be misunderstood; 4) will possibly be used to judge your writing and communication skills; and 5) might land in the local news media as the basis of a story without your permission. ” – Robert Rammer, assistant superintendent of Community Unit School District in Wheaton, Illinois, from “Three Common-Sense Principles To Share with Principals,” as published in this month’s issue of AASA’s School Administrator. The June issue of AASA’s School Administrator examines Capacity Building, focusing on systems that connect staff accountability for student performance to professional support.

Saylor Selected for National Leadership Consortium

Dr. Michelle Saylor, superintendent of the Bellefonte Area SD, is one of twenty five women leaders recently selected to participate in the 2018 AASA National Women’s Leadership Consortium.

Established in 2016 as part of the Women in School Leadership Initiative, the Consortium is designed to bring together successful women leaders to identify and address barriers women face when aspiring to top leadership positions in K-12 education. Horace Mann partners with AASA to support the Consortium.

Recently, Michelle also was named one of Education Week’s “Leaders to Learn From” for leading Bellefonte’s initiatives in global education. Congratulations, Michelle!
My mom was really good at growing things: geraniums, roses, petunias—all were outstanding. My paternal grandmother was the same. There wasn’t much she touched that wouldn’t grow, either inside or out. Both spent many hours tending blooms, pulling weeds, fertilizing and watering their garden beds and pots. But I can’t say the same. Plants gifted to me sense my innate lack of nature skills and attention—and give up the ghost immediately rather than subject themselves to a slow death.

I don’t have a green thumb or even a “green” inclination. Not even slightly green. Except for green weeds. I’m really good at growing them.

For example, in the spring, our lawn really is quite lovely, with lots of little yellow blossoms facing into the sun. We’re the only such lawn in the block, and I’m sure the neighbors are insanely jealous. Their spring lawns are just green. And when theirs are turning brown in mid-July, ours is bright green. Weeds are always in season.

As for what passes for our flower garden in the front yard, our one hydrangea somehow manages to turn into a huge blue snowball almost every summer without much effort on my part, and the old azalea bushes that predated our tenancy somehow manage to turn into pink blankets in late May. The daffodils were great this year—and the stems are still somewhat green, so they blend right in with the rest of whatever all those other green “plants” are.

I really don’t have an excuse for my lawn or for the failure of any house plant in my care to last a year. I can say the green-thumb-gene bypassed me, but seriously, I don’t have the burning desire to care about a plant. It’s just plants, just a lawn, and, frankly, I really am not that interested in landscaping, mulch or soil supplements. Somehow, it looks OK to me just the way it is. There are living things there. I did my job. It’s green. I have other priorities.

What does that all have to do with “resolutions”? Simply put, plants and lawns are not children or classrooms full of kids. And when it comes to making sure that the children in our public schools have the resources they need to bloom, there aren’t any excuses.

The PASA/PASBO report on school district budgets, released this month, makes clear that Harrisburg is not adequately tending the education garden, despite additional funding over the past three years. The pension debacle, rising special education costs, continuing costs of mandates such as charter school tuition and now the costs related to school safety are eating up that increased funding, making it increasingly difficult to ensure that our public schools have the adequate resources to tend our most valuable resource: our children.

What happens when you don’t tend the garden? When you don’t provide the proper water and nutrients for the soil? Guess what? You get my lawn and front yard. It may look green, but it’s not the green you want—or need.

In my case, it’s a singular lack of interest, lack of commitment and some serious lack of expertise in how best to grow things. For some in Harrisburg, it’s a singular lack of concern for public education [aka “government schools”], a lack of commitment to ensuring that public schools remain the foundation of our communities, and a serious lack of concern for real data and factual information about what is needed in struggling communities.
From the Women’s Caucus
How Do You Want to Spend Your Summer?
BY LYNN FUINI-HETTEN, CAUCUS PRESIDENT

The school year is slowly coming to a close. Where did those 180 days go? Learners and teachers have gone home for the summer, and the halls are eerily quiet. Buses are parked until August, and our parking lots are almost empty. Evaluations are finished...well as finished as those 82-1s can be... for now. Vacant or new positions are posted, and interviews are scheduled.

Summer brings a different pace and many opportunities for us personally and professionally. How do you want to spend your summer?

Will you vacation with family and/or friends?

Summer is the perfect time to reconnect and nurture those relationships which sometimes get challenged with demanding job responsibilities and relentless evening schedules. I am looking forward to sharing thrills with my son at Universal and watching the sun set over the ocean at OBX this summer! Or, maybe your idea of a vacation is a staycation and you are just seeking some relaxation or time to grill at home!

Will you develop the culture within your school or district?

We always kick off our summer with a breakfast, catered by our administrative team, for all 12-month staff. Having some time to relax and talk as we transition to our summer work can help us all focus on what is next while celebrating what we achieved this school year.

Will you learn something new?

What is on your reading list for the summer? After a busy year with endless reading, maybe you are looking forward to learning through a different avenue. What would you like to learn about during these slower-paced months? Have you ever searched for podcasts related to your interests? There are so many diverse podcasts available online. Seriously, check them out! Listen in the car, while you are floating in the pool, or even as you check some items off your to-do list around the house.

Will you invest time in developing your personal and/or professional learning network?

If you haven’t had the time to connect with others on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, etc, summer is the perfect time to learn a new tool! Don’t forget to follow @pasausupts on Twitter. Or, maybe you are more of a face-to-face learner. Will you have time to connect with others at professional conferences? Don’t forget...PASA is partnering with many other professional organizations to offer the Leadership Summit in State College this July. So many learning experiences this summer! How can you share what you learn?

Will you focus your team on the upcoming work?

Many of us engage in summer retreats with our teams. How will you engage your team in conversations which matter in your school/district? What have been the characteristics of your most successful retreats? Outside speakers, brainstorming sessions, goal setting, celebrations?

The summer can fly by swiftly as we start to prepare for Opening Convocation and set our goals for the 2018-19 school year.

Before we know it, our buildings will be cleaned, classrooms will be painted, and floors will shine brightly! What opportunities will you take advantage of this summer?

A note about Women’s Caucus... In order to ensure your membership in the Women’s Caucus, you must select Women’s Caucus on the membership form. There is no additional fee to be a part of the Women’s Caucus. Membership information can be found at: http://www.pasa-net.org/wcabout.

Women’s Caucus Officers for 2018-20 (as of May 8)

President: Lynn Fuini-Hetten, Asst. Superintendent, Salisbury Township
Secretary: Dr. Tomorrow Jenkins, Asst. Principal, Kennett Consolidated
Finance Chair: Dr. Sherri Connell, Asst. Superintendent, Penns Valley Area
Membership Chair: Sherry Cowburn, Principal, East Lycoming
Public Relations Chair: Dr. Merle Horowitz (ret.)
Liaison Chair: Sharon Laverdure (ret.)
Awards Chair: Dr. Rina Vassallo (ret.)

Thank you to Dr. Michelle Saylor, 2016-18 President, for your service to the Women’s Caucus!

See the Women’s Caucus page on the PASA website at www.pasa-net.org to learn more about the Caucus, upcoming events and regional contacts on the Caucus Board.

SAVE THE DATES!

Southeast Region Women’s Caucus Annual Dinner
Monday, Oct. 29
King of Prussia

2019 Women’s Caucus Conference
Monday, May 13 – Wednesday, May 15
Hotel Hershey
Pena named recipient of 2018 Wanda McDaniel Award
BY DR. RINA VASSALLO, WOMEN’S CAUCUS AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIR

At the Women’s Caucus Conference in May, Jamie Pena, assistant principal at Ridley High School, was named the recipient of the 2018 Wanda Mc Daniel Award. This singular award was named for Wanda Mc Daniel, a founding member of the Women’s Caucus who was an incredible role model and inspiring mentor to numerous female leaders across the state.

Pena was nominated by Lee Ann Wentzel, superintendent, and Dr. Kenneth Acker, high school principal in the Ridley School District.

“I chose to nominate Jamie as a deserving candidate for the Wanda McDaniel award reflected by her personal characteristics and contributions as a leader in our district,” Wentzel said during the conference award luncheon. “We have been fortunate to witness Jamie’s unlimited possibilities for professional growth. Her willingness to ask questions and seek guidance from others serves to enhance her leadership, community service involvement, and long-range planning skills.”

Pena graduated from West Chester University in 2006 with a B.S in Secondary English Education and in 2010 received her Masters’ degree in School Administration and Leadership from California University of PA. She began her educational career as an English teacher at Ridley High School and as a coach for Ridley softball and basketball teams. Her next career move was as dean of students and, most recently, assistant principal.

In nominating her for the award, both Wentzel and Acker described Pena as a collaborative leader who is “the least experienced and youngest member of the team…..and whose favorite phrase is ‘I’ve got this.’”

One of her many tasks is the student schedule. Pena has successfully created an innovative redesign of the high school schedule based on student interests. Also noted was Pena’s noteworthy volunteer endeavors, including chaperoning the indoor track team’s trip to the PA Championship Final and accompanying art students to Los Angeles to accept awards.

Pena has also uniquely contributed to facilitating the student government group by notably creating an instrument for student voice. Her distinguished leadership of this group led to instituting a week-long celebration of “Everything Ridley.” Her unique approach led to a homecoming celebration for all students and the community.

In addition, Pena created and instituted “A Girls Who Code” group. In order to give girls an opportunity to explore STEM, Jamie impressively serves as a mentor and sponsor to this new group.

Although Pena is a new administrator, her nomenclators phrased it this way: “Jamie has proven her limited years of experience are not boundaries that will keep her from finding success. … Her willingness to accept these limitations only emphasize her ability to grow as a professional. She sees her novice stature as challenge to be better tomorrow than she is today.

“[We] find Jamie to be more of a problem finder. She goes out of her way to identify the inherent impediment to change. She is able to identify the root cause and generate multiple solutions that, when employed, have substantial impact on systemic change.”

At the award ceremony, Wentzel concluded her endorsement of this amazing young woman by stating, “Jamie’s most important and significant contribution is her relationship with the students in our school. She marshals students, staff, and community members to celebrate the strengths of our school district. Ultimately, our students are better citizens for simply allowing her to be a part of their lives. They know Ms. Pena is a trusted professional who will champion their beliefs, voices, and needs. Jamie is the one who is always first to take on challenges that require change…. Her tenacity for continuous improvement and ability to communicate her vision for change demonstrates wisdom we want in any leader that lifts other leaders and best exemplifies the spirit of Wanda McDaniel.”

The Women’s Caucus congratulates this extraordinary leader for her profound impact on education, her deliberate mentoring of young adults and for being the unique recipient of this distinguished award.

Wright named recipient of 2018 Margaret Smith Leadership Award
BY DR. MERLE HOROWITZ, 2012-14 WOMEN’S CAUCUS PRESIDENT

Dr. Mary Anne Wright was honored as the recipient of the 2018 Margaret Smith Leadership Award during last month’s Women’s Caucus Conference in Hershey.

The award is given to a female administrator who has demonstrated proven leadership in education and is named for Dr. Margaret Smith, first president of the Women’s Caucus, a former Pennsylvania superintendent and a former PA Secretary of Education.

Completing a wonderful 30-year career in education as the superintendent of the Northwestern Lehigh School District, Dr. Wright is highly regarded in both Lehigh County and across Pennsylvania.

Under Dr. Wright’s leadership, Northwestern Lehigh launched a very successful one-to-one laptop/chromebook initiative for students in grades 2-12. The district is also moving to full day kindergarten next year after extensive planning. Her leadership also resulted in significant improvements in standardized test scores, most notably when Northwestern Lehigh High School had the highest School Performance Profile score for 2016-2017 in Lehigh County at a 95 percent.

Mary Anne Wright has been passionate throughout her career in mentoring women. She believes in helping those around her to be the best that they can be. Her mission is to help provide her expertise to mentor new or experienced administrators. She has mentored at least 23 new administrators throughout her tenure as superintendent in two school districts – Salisbury Township and Northwestern Lehigh.

Mary Anne has also used these mentoring skills as a member of the PASA Board of Governors from 2010 - 2014, as the Secretary of the PASA Women’s Caucus from 2007 – 2010, and as the President of the PASA Women’s Caucus from 2010 – 2012. She has mentored countless women leaders in her leadership roles through PASA and the Women’s Caucus.

The PASA Women’s Caucus congratulates Mary Anne Wright on receiving this prestigious honor!
2018 PASA Women’s Caucus Conference

Women in school district administration gathered at the Hotel Hershey on May 6-8 for the annual Women’s Caucus Conference.

With the theme “Leaders Lifting Leaders,” this year’s conference offered participants featured presenters, opportunities for networking, and numerous educational sessions focused on a variety of topics, including developing leaders across the organization, articulating your personal leadership, and aspiring to the next level of school leadership.

The three-day conference concluded on Tuesday with both legislative and legal updates.

Keynote speakers included: Dr. Helen Sobehart, a former superintendent, college dean and member of the PASA Women’s Caucus, and founder of “Women Leading Education Across the Continents; Dr. Tracey Severns, nationally recognized teacher and school administrator, and Chief Academic Officer for the New Jersey Department of Education; Dr. Emilie Lonardi, superintendent of the Downingtown Area SD, former PA Superintendent of the Year and the 2017-18 PASA President; Hannah Barrick, PASBO Director of Advocacy and PASA Legislative Liaison; and Kristine Roddick, chair of the Special Educator Group and Managing Partner of the Executive Committee for King, Spry, Herman, Freund and Faul.

Lynn Fuini-Hetten served as leader of the conference planning committee. Dr. Michelle Saylor presided over the conference as Women’s Caucus President.

The Women’s Caucus Board now is making plans for the 2019 conference, planned for May 13-15 in the Hotel Hershey.

Thank you to Kades-Margolis and MIND Research Institute for their additional sponsor contributions to this year’s conference!

Images from this year’s Conference:

ABOVE: Dr. Michelle Saylor, 2016-18 Caucus President

ABOVE: McDaniel Award recipient Jamie Pena (left) with Ridley SD superintendent Lee Ann Wentzel

ABOVE: Dr. Helen Sobehart, keynote speaker

ABOVE: Dr. Mary Anne Wright, Smith Award recipient (third from left), with district colleagues

BELOW: Conference attendees with the official “mascot” of Caucus conference sponsor MIND Research Institute
Above: Attendees with Ed Margolis from Kades-Margolis, Caucus conference sponsor.

Left: Keynote presenter Dr. Tracey Severns with Rod Sanders, representing Eidex, a PASA Spons.
Advocacy for Urban Schools...

ABOVE: On May 22 members of the PLUS Caucus of PASA representing urban schools in Pennsylvania, including Sybil Knight-Burney, superintendent of the Harrisburg SD (at the podium), participated in a media event at the state Capitol, urging increased and equitable funding for the commonwealth’s struggling urban districts and explaining the unique challenges they face as school leaders in high-poverty urban centers.

BELOW: Southeast Delco superintendent Stephen Butz noted that fiscal stress has led to increased class size, a trend that may have to continue if funding does not increase.

ABOVE: Alan Johnson, superintendent of Woodland Hills, explained that urban schools are not failing; rather, the system is failing urban schools.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
Register today - and don’t miss this year’s featured speakers:

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
• Darrell Scott, author and founder of Rachel’s Challenge, an organization focused on creating a culture of kindness to combat bullying
• Chuck Underwood, founder of consulting firm The Generational Imperative and international expert on generational study

FEATURED SPEAKERS
• John Gerdy, author and founder/executive director of Music For Everyone
• Thomas Murray, director of innovation for Future Ready Schools

Reserve Your Rooms Now!
Housing for the Conference remains open, but rooms are going fast! Get your reservations in now! Reservation deadline is September 17.

PASA Events at the Conference
Don’t forget to include the special PASA Recognition Luncheon with your conference registration. Network with your colleagues and join us to recognize our outgoing President Dr. Emilie Lonardi and three recipients of the PASA Awards of Achievement.
In addition, the PASA Women’s Caucus will have a drop-in session for conversation and networking during the conference. Watch for details on these and other events!

Education Excellence Fair
Showcase your exemplary initiatives during the conference on either October 17 or Oct. 18. Share the remarkable things that are happening in public schools, including science, technology, engineering, arts, music or a language program at your district. Space is limited! Return your Request for Participation now! See the conference website for details.

Conference website: https://www.paschoolleaders.org/
FOR NEW AND ASPIRING SUPERINTENDENTS

Are you a new superintendent? Aspiring to the superintendency? Or know someone who is – or should? This is a DON’T MISS program!!

STILL TIME TO REGISTER!
Part 1: Strategic & Cultural Leadership
July 12-13, 2018 at the PASA office
25 PIL hours available for this two-day program

ABOUT PART 1:
This program, one of three sessions in the New Superintendents’ Academy*, will provide insight into the importance of vision, goals and an empowering culture that promotes student and staff growth, along with information and discussions about working effectively with school boards. (*Sessions do not need to be taken in order.)

SESSIONS:
• The First 100 Days: Transition and “To-Dos”
• Targeting Good Governance for Strategic and Cultural Leadership
• A Team of 10: Developing an Effective School Board and Superintendent Relationship for Strategic & Cultural Leadership
• Team Building for Strategic & Cultural Leadership
• Lessons Learned During the First Year
• School Board Transitions and Orientation
• Superintendent Evaluation
• Innovative Strategic & Cultural Leadership
• On-the-Spot, Hands-On Assistance for Social Media Newbies and Seasoned Pros

PRESENTERS:
Presenters include both superintendents who have been in the job for a number of years and those who are in their first or second year. Meet new colleagues and hear from school system leaders who have been where you are now – and will provide you with the information and advice YOU need to be successful in your new position!

PROGRAM SCHEDULE
This program begins with check-in from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, July 12, includes a continental breakfast, lunch and a reception/dinner on the first day, begins again on the second day (Friday, July 13) at 8:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast, includes lunch, and concludes by 2:00 p.m. Overnight accommodations are available nearby on July 12 at a discounted rate. (Deadline: June 12)

PASA Legal Services
PASA’s legal staff offers a wide range of employment-related legal resources and services to PASA members who are Commissioned Officers. These services include consulting services, employment contract services, non-litigation dispute resolution, and assistance with the negotiation and development of separation agreements. Go to http://www.pasa-net.org/legalservices to read more about it.

For more information about this program and registration, see the PASA website at: https://www.pasa-net.org/workshopnsa

ABOUT THE NEW SUPERINTENDENTS’ ACADEMY
The Academy is a three-part series that serves as a primer of the “basics” for new superintendents. Each two-day academy program features discussions led by experienced superintendents and offers participants practical advice on issues they are likely to confront as they prepare for and enter their new position. The Academy provides new superintendents an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with experienced and highly successful colleagues from throughout the commonwealth, develop a network with new superintendents, and gain a statewide perspective from participants and session leaders representing the diversity of districts across Pennsylvania.

2018 ACADEMY SCHEDULE*
July 12-13 – Part 1: Strategic & Cultural Leadership
September 26-27 – Part 2: Systems Leadership
January 8-9, 2019 – Part 3: Professional & Community Leadership
*Sessions do NOT need to be taken in order.

EPLC Now Receiving Applications for the 2018-19 Policy Fellowship Program

The Education Policy Leadership Center is now accepting applications for the 2018-19 Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program.

The Fellowship Program is a professional development program for individuals whose work record reflects strong leadership abilities and a concern for issues important to children and education. The program is supported by a national and state network of resource people and peers who have a track record of accomplishment in research, policy development, and effective practice in education, child development and human services, and is hosted by the Education Policy and Leadership Center* in Pennsylvania.

With more than 500 graduates in its first 19 years, this Program is a premier professional development opportunity for educators, state and local policymakers, advocates, and community leaders.

Past participants include state policymakers, district superintendents and principals, school business officials, school board members, education deans/chairs, statewide association leaders, parent leaders, education advocates, and other education and community leaders.

The 2018-19 program begins in September and continues to graduation in June 2019.

See the EPLC website for details on how you can join the 2018-19 cohort!

*The Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC) is a Pennsylvania-based, not-for-profit corporation established in 1998 and governed by a board of directors that includes members who have significant experience with education policy, government and not-for-profit organizations. The Center conducts its policy and leadership programs in cooperation with numerous local, statewide and national organizations. PASA is a founder and supporter of EPLC.
In a very uncommon move, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) recently announced a rescission to recess. Congress typically adjourns for the month of August, and this early June announcement indicates the Senate will have a mere week of recess in August (meaning that cuts to recess aren’t just for school kids any more).

McConnell indicated he was keeping the Senate in session so policymakers can clear a backlog of political confirmations and make headway on annual appropriations bills. A more politically-motivated read would indicate that McConnell is issuing the extended work period to stymie the work of 10 incumbent Democratic senators who are up for re-election in states won by Trump in 2016. This extended work period forces those candidates to choose between campaigning at home (skipping votes and being accused of ignoring official duties) or staying in Washington and leaving the home state open for un-challenged campaigning from Republican challengers.

Even if the Senate extends their work period, the reality of the Congressional “to do” wish list far exceeds the available floor time, especially when we consider the increasingly partisan and gridlocked nature of Congress, something that will only ramp up as we draw nearer to the midterm elections.

What are we in store for?

Farm Bill

Last month, the House brought its partisan committee-passed Farm Bill to the floor, expecting it to pass. It was defeated for reasons related to content (Democrats opposed the proposed changes to the SNAP program) as well as immigration (moderate Republicans want to force a vote on DACA, and the Freedom Caucus wants a different immigration vote). The defeat surprised leadership, but the bill is now expected to return to the House floor in mid-June. It is not expected to have any traction on the Senate side, as that chamber has indicated wanting to work in a bipartisan manner. As a refresher, AASA opposes the bill, given its changes to SNAP and the consequential implications for student hunger.

Immigration

Two tracks to follow here. As Speaker Ryan works to wheel and deal to get the votes for the Farm Bill, he may strike an agreement with the Freedom Caucus to bring up an immigration bill. (Side note: Ryan does not want to have an immigration vote on the floor this year, given the mid-term elections.)

The other vehicle for an immigration-related vote is through the discharge position, a process by which a majority of the floor (in this instance, 218) vote for a petition to bring a bill to the floor, typically one leadership opposes. The discharge petition overrides leadership and brings the issue to the floor. In this instance, that issue is immigration, and it would likely be a queen-of-the-hill vote scenario. Queen-of-the-hill is a process by which Congress would vote on a handful of proposals (3-4), and in popularity-contest style, the winner takes it all.

Likely policy contenders are a clean DREAM Act, a version of the USA Act, which is DREAM Act plus some more common sense, moderate border security compromises; the Goodlatte bill, which is bad; and a bill yet TBD. AASA would support the DREAM Act and would likely support the USA Act. The likelihood of an immigration vote of some type are all but certain, but it’s more an issue of whether Ryan can court the Freedom Caucus before the discharge petition is triggered.

Higher Education Act

All signs indicate the House is full-steam-ahead to bring the House bill to the floor this month. Here’s what you need to know: AASA opposes the House proposal, PROSPER Act, in large part because it cuts and guts all support to teachers to help them navigate and afford certification. The bill does not have a Senate counterpart.

Perkins Career and Technical Education

The Senate is back at the negotiating table to see if they can bang out a workable bill to reauthorize Perkins CTE. Senator Alexander (R-TN) has laid to the side his concern related to reigning in the regulatory authority of the Secretary, and conversations are ongoing. We are concerned with what we hear about the potential for funds to be awarded competitively from the state to the local level. We think the fastest and best track would be for the Senate to adopt the bipartisan bill the House passed rather than reinvent the wheel. However, Alexander seems set on marking-up some version of Perkins on June 20.

Net Neutrality

The regulatory protections referred to as ‘net neutrality’ ended on June 11. The path to protection is uphill, both ways, and covered in six feet of snow (channeling my grandpa with that one), but worth considering. Details are on the blog. AASA sent a letter supporting the Senate effort to preserve the protections.

Appropriations

Congress will work to avoid a shutdown and is attempting to complete as many of the individual funding bills as possible before passing a continuing resolution to get us through the election and into lame-duck session and then going home to campaign. Our slice of the pie—Labor, Health & Human Services (LHHS) —is never a real fan favorite, in terms of being at the top of the list for either rank order or new funding.

Complicating matters, the House and Senate are starting in very different starting points. The House level funds the allocation to our slice of the pie and the Senate provides a $2 billion increase. Keep in mind that the funding cap increase for overall spending from FY18 to FY19 is $18 billion, and a proportional increase to LHHS would be closer to $5.5 billion, well above both the House and Senate. We are engaged in advocacy to make sure Congress uses FY18 as the starting point for FY19 discussions and steers any additional dollars toward priority formula programs like Title I and IDEA. Stay tuned!

Education Department

Let’s not leave out the Department of Education. The Federal School Safety Commission held its first listening session on June 6. AASA filed a formal statement, read for the record, with the Association of Educational Service Agencies, the Association of School Business Officials International, the Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators, the National Rural Education Association and the National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium.

Also expected this month: the long-awaited ESSA-required report on the Title I formula, as well as ESSA Report Card guidance (rumored to include information related to the fiscal transparency requirement) AND the Trump administration’s proposal related to supplement, not supplant.
School Safety…

AASA participated in a June 6 listening session of the Federal School Safety Commission to provide recommendations for the commission’s consideration. F AASA, with five other national organizations representing school system leaders, submitted a joint statement on the issue of school safety.

However, following the listening session, Daniel A. Domenech, AASA executive director, issued a statement urging the commission to more fully engage those “in the field” on school safety issues.

“The success of the Commission in its mission will depend on how seriously they involve and engage stakeholders and structure future meetings to ensure continued diverse participation,” he said.

“The depth of knowledge of the commission would grow exponentially to include educator and school community stakeholders at each meeting rather than one-off appearances.”

Domenech also expressed disappointment about attendance at the session. “We would be remiss if we did not express our deep disappointment in the poor attendance of the official members of the Commission at today’s listening session. While technology may allow them to stream remotely, or to read our statements after the fact, the fact remains that it is hard to claim to have ‘listened’.

“We know that in school districts across the country, superintendents and school system leaders are leading the very same conversations being tackled by this commission. I can assure you that the superintendents are not sending staff to listen in. They attend in person, because you can’t engage in the process and conversation if you’re not in the room.”

Busy Summer Schedule in D.C.…. 

AASA is busy this summer monitoring congressional activity on a wide variety of education issues, among them: ESSA (Title IV and Title II); infrastructure spending (slow to materialize); reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (concerns about competitive funding); FY 2019 appropriations; the Nutrition/Farm Bill (which AASA opposes due to its proposed reductions in SNAP benefits); immigration (highly controversial in the House); House consideration of the Higher Education Act (PROSPER Act), which cuts and guts all support to teachers to help them navigate and afford certification; and possible congressional action to reinstate net neutrality rules.

In addition, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) recently announced a rescission of the usual August recess to keep senators in Washington in August rather than out on the campaign trail in an election year. Ten incumbent Democratic senators are up for re-election this year in states which Pres. Trump won in 2016.

Women in School Leadership Awards…

The AASA Women in School Leadership Awards pay tribute to the talent, creativity and vision of outstanding women educational administrators in the nation’s public schools. AASA is now seeking nominations for these awards. Any female superintendent, central office staff, school principal, classroom teacher or school-based specialist in a leadership role may be nominated or apply. The deadline is Oct. 12. See the AASA website, http://www.aasa.org/WomensLeadership.aspx, for details.

Legislative Advocacy Conference…

AASA members, there still is time to register for the 2018 AASA Legislative Advocacy Conference, scheduled for July 10-12 in Washington D.C. Engage in advocacy on The Hill, learn about the latest policy proposals, and join your colleagues from across the nation to “speak as one” on behalf of public education. See the AASA website, http://www.aasa.org/legconf.aspx, for more information.

Save the Date

Don’t forget to “Save the Date” for the 2019 conference, Feb. 14-15 in Los Angeles!

Join AASA today and become part of a supported community of school leaders nationwide who advocate for public education! See the AASA web site for details at www.aasa.org or contact the PASA office.

The Advocate

Continued from page page 14

The bottom line is this: This summer there will be a LOT of activity on Capitol Hill, likely concentrated around the week of June 20, and AASA will be busy monitoring it and reaching out for superintendent engagement and activity as needed. At the same time, a lot of this activity will boil down to a little more than political theatre and posturing. We can’t confuse activity with productivity but must always remain diligent in ensuring that federal policy—however substantive—reflects the needs and priorities of public schools.

Shameless Plug: Come hear the latest and (not-so) greatest goings on of all things federal advocacy related for our summer advocacy conference, scheduled for July 10-12 and held in conjunction with the Association of School Business Officials International. Register today!
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*Thank you for your continuing support!*

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Noteworthy Quotes…

On School Funding…

“Based on this year’s results, it appears that the many financial pressures affecting school districts could be undoing any positive gains made over the past few years, and we remain right where we started.” – from the PASA/PASBO Report on School District Budgets, released this month

“We find ourselves in the same situation we have had the last five years. Before the ink is dry on this current year’s budget, districts are already at a loss for revenue.” – PASA Executive Director Mark DiRocco, on the survey results outlined in the report

“As a society and as a country, if we are going to say all kids need our love and all kids need our support, then it is time we act and put our money where our mouth is and really support all communities.” – Michael Vuckovich, superintendent of the Greater Johnstown SD, speaking during a press conference at the Capitol led by the PLUS Caucus of PASA, 5/22/18

“This is a clear victory for public school students across the Commonwealth. There is no doubt that Pennsylvania’s school children continue to suffer extraordinary harm due to severe underfunding and gross inequalities. We look forward to proving our case at trial.” – Maura McInerney, legal director at the Education Law Center in Philadelphia, concerning a recent decision from Commonwealth Court that the school funding lawsuit could continue, as reported in The Morning Call, 5/7/18

On Public School Privatization & Vouchers…

“Given disappointing academic results, endemic corruption, and growing segregation, why does anyone interested in equal and excellent education for all still support vouchers and charter schools? One reason is money. Entrepreneurs recognized early on that market-based ed-reforms could be a source of substantial profits. Private operators quickly found ways to tap into the vast public resources – no more than $600 billion a year – spent on K-12 education. Equally important, ideology trumps evidence for free-market boosters, and ed reformers have developed a culture of true-believers.” – Joanne Barkan, from “Death by a Thousand Cuts: The Story of Privatizing Public Education in the USA,” as published in The Washington Post, 5/30/18

“I know very well there are powerful interests that want to deprive families their God-given freedom [to choose private schools]. I know that those sycophants of ‘the system’ have kept legislators here from enacting a common-sense program that would open options to thousands of kids in need.” – U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, speaking on May 16 before the Alfred E. Smith Foundation, which supports Catholic charities in New York City, as reported in The New York Times

“Money is really important. That’s why every failing school is a poor school. Money may not be a panacea for everything, but it’s a condition precedent for fixing the things that are obviously glaring problems in these schools based on lack of ability to afford the things you need to make the schools decent. Rather than taking more money away from schools that don’t have enough money, I would give more money to the schools that don’t have enough.” – Sen. Daylin Leach (D-Montgomery), speaking against SB 2, a bill that would provide Education Savings Accounts (vouchers) to students to attend private schools, during a meeting of the Senate Education Committee, 5/22/18

“Schools in Pennsylvania get more money per pupil than almost every other state in the United States. It’s not a money problem. We spend 42 percent of our state budget on public education in Pennsylvania. I don’t know why government schools are so afraid of competition. They should welcome it.” – Sen. John Eichelberger, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, arguing in favor of SB 2, 5/22/18

“I have fought to protect public education and restore the state funding cut from our public schools under the previous administration. Senate Bill 2 would take us backwards and could mean many millions of dollars being cut from public schools.” – Gov. Wolf, from a press release, 5/22/18

On School Safety…

“I am here to tell you we need help. My staff is not trained to handle the psychological needs of some kids. I do not have enough professionally trained individuals to handle the social and emotional needs of these children.” – Ed Bowser, superintendent of the Forest Hills SD, speaking during a Senate hearing on several school safety bills, 5/23/18

“The funding for an additional counselor could be a game-changer in a district like mine, but funding needs to be sustainable, utilized only for counseling and mental health professionals and services, and not just taken from our [state education] subsidy with a mandated repurposing.” – Dr. John Zesiger, superintendent of the Moshannon Valley SD during the same hearing

“We need to include school administrators, teachers, support staffs, students, parents, law enforcement, emergency responders and legislators. School Safety needs to be the top priority for all stakeholders. Responding to school violence is not about taking political sides. It is about determining what’s best for students and staff.” – Dr. Patricia Craig, superintendent of the Camp Hill SD, during a press conference on school safety, 6/1/18

“We know it isn’t easy to find money, but I will tell you this: I am going to make it my priority to find the money, and find it in a big way, in order to help our schools, our administration, our teachers and our students to school and come home safe.” – Senate President Pro Tem Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson), speaking during a Pennsylvania Press Club luncheon on May 19
REGION 1
Megan Marie Van Fossan has been appointed superintendent of the Ringgold SD, effective July 1. She has been serving as director of special services in the McGuffey SD. Van Fossan will replace Randy Skrinjorich, who had been serving as acting superintendent following the sudden passing of district superintendent Karen Polkabla in February.

REGION 5
Sheri Yetzer has been named superintendent of the Corry Area SD beginning July 1. She currently serves as assistant superintendent in the district. Yetzer will replace William Nichols, who is retiring.

REGION 23
Dr. Steven Yanni has been appointed superintendent of the Upper Dublin SD, effective July 5. He currently serves as superintendent in the New Hope-Solebury SD. Yanni will replace Dr. Deborah Wheeler, who is retiring.

Please report member news to PASA at pasa@pasa-net.org. Announcements of professional vacancies across Pennsylvania and in neighboring states are posted on the PASA Web site at www.pasa-net.org. (Click on the “Leadership Development” button and look for “Career Center.”)

PASA Website Career Center

Have an administrative position you need to fill? Or are you considering moving forward in your professional career?

As a courtesy to school administrators, those seeking positions in school administration and public school employers, PASA provides on its website the “PASA Career Center,” a listing of job openings, both in Pennsylvania and in the Mid-Atlantic region. Job openings are grouped into several categories:

- Superintendent/Asst. Supt./Executive Director vacancies in PA
- Public K-12, I.U., Career-Tech, Charter School administrator vacancies in PA
- Other Professional Vacancies: PA and National (professional education vacancies in public higher education institutions, associations and other organizations in PA, and non-superintendent public school positions in other states)
- Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional Positions (superintendent and other executive vacancies in public schools out-of-state, particularly the Northeast/Mid Atlantic region)

Vacancies and available positions for public schools are posted at no charge upon request and review.

To request a vacancy announcement posting on this web site, send a message to pasa@pasa-net.org. Please include your phone number with your e-mail request. Information needed includes: position, entity, contact name/address, description of the position, application deadline and application process. Additional position information may be included, depending on length.

(PASA reserves the right not to publish an open position or to modify submitted information.)

PASA Calendar of Events 2018

For more information, see the PASA web site at www.pasa-net.org.

JUNE
19 Lobby Day (Capitol)

JULY
4 PASA office closed
9 Executive Committee meeting
12-13 New Superintendents’ Academy Session 1 (PASA office)
29-31 PA Education Leadership Summit (State College)

AUGUST
1 Professional Development Committee meeting (virtual)
15 Strategic Plan Advisory Team meeting (virtual)
21 Technology Committee meeting (virtual)

SEPTEMBER
3 PASA office closed
13-14 Board of Governors’ meetings (PASA office)
26-27 New Superintendents’ Academy Session 2 (PASA office)

OCTOBER
1 PASA membership year begins
17-19 PASA/PSBA School Leadership Conference (Hershey)
25 Assistant Superintendent Workshop (PASA office)
29 Southeast Women’s Caucus dinner/meeting (King of Prussia)

Stay connected to PASA and join as a Retired Member – and update your contact information! Before you retire, contact Jolene Zelinski for assistance at (717) 540-4448 or via email at jolene@pasa-net.org.

In addition, PASA is in the process of developing an Acting/Substitute Superintendent Service in an effort to provide continuity of leadership in school districts due to the departure of the superintendent.

We will maintain a list of retired superintendents who are available to serve on an interim basis during a district’s search for a permanent superintendent replacement. When contacted, we will share a list of individuals who are available to serve on an interim basis in the geographical location of the requesting district and help them conduct interviews if requested.

If you are a retiring superintendent and would like to be part of this service, please contact Deborah Banks (dbanks@pasa-net.org) or Mark DiRocco (mdirocco@pasa-net.org) in the PASA office.