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).

The PASA Board of Governors on April 19 approved changes to the nomination and application process for Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year, as noted below:

NOMINATIONS

Any Pennsylvania superintendent who plans to continue as a superintendent or I.U. Executive Director may be nominated. The program is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, front-line superintendents. It is not recognition of service at retirement or a program to reward current state or national leaders.

Additional criteria for Pennsylvania nominee eligibility include the following:

• The individual must have been a superintendent for at least five years and in his/her current district in Pennsylvania for at least two years.

• The individual must intend to continue serving as a superintendent in the year in which he/she will be the PA Superintendent of the Year.

See Superintendent of the Year, page 4

PASA Election Results

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, superintendent of the Freedom Area SD, has been elected 2018-19 PASA President-Elect and Dr. John Bell, superintendent of the Delaware Valley SD, has been elected 2018-19 PASA Treasurer, both effective October 1.

Dr. G. Brian Toth, superintendent of the St. Marys Area SD, and Dr. Brian Troop, superintendent of the Ephrata Area SD, have been elected to serve a three-year term on the AASA Governing Board. Also serving on the board are Dr. Jay Burkhart (South Western) and Lee Ann Wentzel (Ridley).

Dr. Shane Hotchkiss, who has been serving as a Pennsylvania representative on the AASA Governing Board, recently was elected by AASA Region 6 representatives to serve on the AASA Executive Board. Dr. Eric Eshbach (Northern York County) has completed his term on that board as Region 6 representative. Dr. Nicholas Guarante, superintendent of the Greenwood SD, has been appointed to fill Dr. Hotchkiss’s unexpired term on the AASA Governing Board.

Dr. Eric Eshbach (Northern York County) has completed his term on that board as Region 6 representative. Dr. Nicholas Guarante, superintendent of the Greenwood SD, has been appointed to fill Dr. Hotchkiss’s unexpired term on the AASA Governing Board.

Dr. Shane Hotchkiss, who has been serving as a Pennsylvania representative on the AASA Governing Board, recently was elected by AASA Region 6 representatives to serve on the AASA Executive Board. Dr. Eric Eshbach (Northern York County) has completed his term on that board as Region 6 representative. Dr. Nicholas Guarante, superintendent of the Greenwood SD, has been appointed to fill Dr. Hotchkiss’s unexpired term on the AASA Governing Board.

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Coming in the June issue...

Recap of the PASA Women’s Caucus Conference, held May 6-8 in Hershey.
A Movement Afoot

Arizona and Colorado became the latest states where teachers organized a statewide strike to protest low wages and lack of funding for public education. They joined their colleagues from West Virginia, Kentucky, and Oklahoma in an unprecedented show of solidarity and resolve to elevate awareness of the woeful state of public education in these states.

Frustrated by years of cuts in funding, little to no salary increases, and lack of resources to teach their students, these educators took a tremendous risk to leave their classrooms and march on their respective capitols, shutting down several school districts. Each strike had differing outcomes, resulting in some salary increases and promises to increase public education funding.

Adequate funding and long-term investment in public education remains elusive for these states and many others, including Pennsylvania. But pressure is mounting.

In many states, the situation is dire for teachers and for the schools they teach in – and for the future of public schools. For example, one of the striking teachers from Colorado is a 28-year-old working on her Master’s degree and earning a salary of $24,000 as a classroom teacher. There are fast-food workers making more money than her. To make things worse, she could not convince her district to spend $300 to purchase new calculators for her students. In Arizona, the average starting teaching salary is approximately $35,000, creating tremendous pressure on new educators as they navigate living expenses, continued education requirements, and paying back student loans. The result too often is that many current teachers are advising their own children not to become teachers.

When many conservative legislators swept into office after the great recession, public education became an easy target to scapegoat. Many states made significant cuts to public education or leveled funding for a number of years. Teachers went without raises for several years and gave concessions in new contract negotiations. Pension systems were changed to less secure retirement programs. Basic school funding was reduced, stagnant, or increased at levels below inflation, causing local school districts to cut personnel, programs, or both for several consecutive years, while raising taxes to balance their budgets.

In Pennsylvania, we’ve witnessed approximately one-third of our school districts cut either personnel or programs for seven consecutive years due to lack of funding. There are 20,000 fewer educators and support staff members working in Pennsylvania’s public schools than eight years ago. These cuts have included programs and personnel such as elementary art, elementary music, pre-kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, high school electives, school nurses, guidance counselors, and social workers, to name just a few.

This steady erosion of our public schools has led to tremendous frustration. At the same time, most members of the public have not been aware of these conditions in our public schools because approximately 80 percent of taxpayers don’t have school-aged children. That may be changing.

The recent statewide strikes across the nation are bringing some much needed attention to this critical issue. Educators are growing weary of the negativity directed at public schools as they do their best to educate children with limited resources. Although the privatization movement continues to push the concept that vouchers and private schools hold the answer to improving education, nothing could be further from the truth. Parents and grandparents are becoming more aware of the negative impact that lack of funding is having on their children and grandchildren.

The political theory that public education is an expense that drains taxpayers and the economy has been proven to be a hollow and deceitful concept. Economic data and evidence prove that the more a state and community invests in public education, the better its children and economy do in the future. More people are beginning to realize that investment in our public schools is one of the best long-term strategies to ensure the vitality of our democracy and the success of our children.

PASA is working with several other educational agencies and associations as part of the Campaign for Pennsylvania’s Success to convince our legislators that the best investment Pennsylvania can make for its future is to support public education through increased funding. Dedicated individuals in five other states have spoken with their feet to drive home this point.

I encourage all our members to put your feet on the ground in Harrisburg on June 19 for the PASA Lobby Day to meet directly with your legislators and tell them the story of your district. Numbers matter! A handful of school leaders won’t make much of an impact that day. A hundred school leaders will get some attention.

Please join us!

If you can participate in Lobby Day on June 19, please contact Deb Banks (dbanks@pasa-net.org). THANK YOU!
At the Capitol...

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

Safety in Schools: Numerous House and Senate bills addressing school safety continue to be introduced, although none have really crossed the finish line at this point. Expect some school safety provisions to be included as part of the state budget package. Bills that would allow school boards to hold school safety discussions in executive session have widespread support in both chambers.

School Safety Task Force: Pennsylvania’s School Safety Task Force continues to hold meetings across the state to gather information about school safety issues and develop recommendations for changes needed on the state and local level to ensure student and school security. Gov. Wolf and Auditor General Eugene DePasquale co-chair the task force, which also includes four other members, including PASA Executive Director Dr. Mark DiRocco.

State Budget News

Revenue Update: Pennsylvania collected $3.8 billion in General Fund revenue in April, which was $33.3 million, or 0.9 percent, less than anticipated. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total $29 billion, which is $164.1 million, or 0.6 percent, above estimate.

State Budget Update: With a more positive revenue picture, it appears there is good reason for optimistic that finding agreement on a state budget will not be a protracted struggle this spring. There continues to be widespread and significant support for the proposed education line-items, and all sides are talking. Expect budget talks to begin ramping up next week.

Support for School Funding: A recent poll conducted by the PA Budget & Policy Center found that almost six in ten respondents from both sides of the political aisle favor making full funding of K-12 public education a top legislative priority. The poll found that 56 percent of those responding believe the state invests too little in public schools and only 12 percent believe the state invests too much.

In Legislative News

Session Schedule: Both the House and Senate are in recess for the May primary. Both chambers will return to session the week of May 21 and then go back into recess for two weeks for Memorial Day. The big push to the budget will commence when they both return to session the week of June 4, with no further recesses planned until after the budget is finalized (as long as that work does not carry over into July 4).

C/T Legislation: The House has passed and sent to the Senate a number of bills intended to bolster career/technical education. Issues addressed include accessibility of information to students about career choices, workforce development, C/T advisory committees, articulation agreements and more flexibility in awarding vocational instructional certificates.

Vouchers: The Senate Education Committee in April deferred action on 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 provides vouchers for all students entering kindergarten or first grade, regardless of their school district, and allows parents to take the vouchers with them even if they change districts. The committee is expected to bring the bill back for consideration as early as this month. PASA strongly opposes this bill.

Graduation Requirements: The Senate Education Committee also plans to bring up for consideration as early as May 22 legislation that 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. PASA opposes the use of Keystone Exams for graduation purposes and supports flexibility in the use of assessments to determine student proficiency. PASA is working with lawmakers and other education groups on crafting a bill that will be supported in both the House and Senate.

Other Bills: Numerous education bills are being considered in both the House and Senate, as lawmakers hope they can pass at least one chamber to have a chance of being included in a School Code bill passed with the budget. These bills address a multitude of issues, from mandatory civics exams to student application of sunscreen to school board candidate cross-filing. Whether these bills or other bills will end up in a School Code bill remains to be seen.

State News

Charter School Tuition Calculations: The PDE last month issued guidance to school districts to clarify confusion that came about following rescission of the department’s guidelines for calculating charter school tuition rates. The guidelines and form were used to calculate the amount the school district is to pay charter schools for resident students enrolled. See the PDE website for information.

National News

Autism Rates: According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism spectrum disorder is up 15 percent on average. About 1 in 59 eight-year-olds were diagnosed with the disorder in 2014, based on data collected from 11 states.

Teacher Walkouts: Teachers in Arizona and Colorado and several others were among those who walked out of classrooms en-masse last month to protest low salaries and low state support for public schools. The walkouts, and other teacher protests throughout the nation, drew attention to rising problems with school facilities and resources, as well as teacher pay and retention across the nation.

Nation’s Report Card: According to results of the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), struggling students are falling behind, while top performers are rising higher. In general, scores for 4th and 8th graders averaged about the same as they had in 2016, but the gap between low achievers and high achievers had widened. Pennsylvania again scored “significantly higher” than the national average.

COMING UP

From now until June 30, it’s all about the budget. Well, it’s also about the School Code bill, possibly vouchers, possibly the Keystone Exams as well — and who knows what other education issues. It’s an election year and anything can happen. In general, May and June are shaping up to be very busy in Harrisburg. STAY ALERT! And, as always, stay tuned for the latest information by following us on Twitter @PASAsupts.

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.
Superintendent of the Year
Continued from page 1

All nominations will be accepted online only. Those seeking to nominate a superintendent must first register on the AASA website. (Self-nomination is not permitted.) AASA will notify candidates of the nomination.

The deadline for submitting formal, online nominations for the Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year is Friday, July 27. Nomination information is available on the AASA web site at https://soy.aasa.org.

APPLICATIONS
Those nominated for the award and found eligible according to the established criteria for candidates (above) will be formally notified and given access to PASA’s application rubric (not the online AASA application). Nominees must complete and send the application to the PASA office by Friday, August 31.

SELECTION
Members of the PASA Elections Committee and the PASA President will review all applications and recommend to the PASA Board of Governors a minimum of two (2) finalists but not more than three (3) for consideration as Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year prior to September 14.

Those applications will be presented to the Board for the purpose of voting (online). The finalist who receives the majority vote (at least 51 percent) will be considered the Pennsylvania recipient of the award.

At that point, the individual selected will be notified and asked to complete the formal, online AASA application for Superintendent of the Year by November 1.

RECOGNITION
Winners from every state, including Pennsylvania, receive local, state and national recognition for their outstanding leadership. The Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year will be recognized and honored during a special awards luncheon in Harrisburg, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 15, 2018.

The 2019 National Superintendent of the Year will be chosen from among four finalists selected from the state winners and will be announced at the 2019 AASA National Conference on Education in Los Angeles (February 14-16) during a ceremony where all state Superintendents of the Year are recognized and honored. In addition to other awards, a $10,000 scholarship is presented each year in the name of the National Superintendent of the Year to a student in the high school from which the superintendent graduated. The four national finalists receive U.S. Savings Bonds.

Questions about the PA/National Superintendent of the Year application process may be directed to PASA.

July 20 deadline

PASA Seeking Nominations for 2018 ‘Awards of Achievement’

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.

Reminder: School Safety Resources Online

In an effort to assist you with the many school safety threats and concerns that have arisen in your schools, PASA has developed a webpage providing suggestions and resources that may assist you. We will update this list as we learn of additional resources.

We realize many of you have already put most of the suggestions into practice, but the list may be helpful to those who are experiencing these issues for the first time as a school district or central office leader.

Please see our website at: https://www.pasa-net.org/schoolsafety.

If PASA can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us at (717) 540-4448.
Awhile back, I heard a speaker/comedian named Mark Mayfield talk about a book he had written, called “Mom’s Rules.” His presentation was so entertaining that I bought the book, which turned out to be about the sayings that mothers use with their children – and what they actually mean.

As we approach Mother’s Day, I thought it might be timely to share a few “Momisms” and see if they ring true for your growing up experience.

Here are a few . . .

- Get your elbows off the table.
- Don’t eat that; it will spoil your appetite.
- Get down from there before you fall!
- Never run with scissors.
- If you don’t stop crying, I’ll give you something to cry about.
- Put that down. You don’t know where it’s been.
- Don’t cross your eyes; they’ll stay that way.

Actually, in all these expressions, your Mom was really trying to teach you a valuable lesson.

For example, Look both ways before you cross the street was your Mom teaching you to be patient, slow down, and make safe decisions ...good advice then and now.

In case you’re in an accident, always wear clean undergarments.

This always seemed a bit strange to me as a kid, but it is actually about your mother teaching you to be ready for the unexpected, be flexible, be able to adapt . . . definitely all 21st century skills.

Finally, one of my own Mother (and Father’s) favorites: If you can’t say anything nice about someone, don’t say anything at all. This lesson was all about positivity, assuming positive intent and always having a kind word for others. Metaphorically, you can complain that a rose bush has thorns or rejoice that a thorn bush has roses. That is what your Mom was trying to get across to you . . . an essential mindset for success.

During this month of May, as we celebrate Mother’s Day, think of these quips or other original sayings that your Mother used, and smile at the ones you now say to your kids.

Most importantly, cherish the direct and indirect wisdom you received from your parents, and at the very least, continue to abide by them . . . because Mom said so!

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Alumni/graduates of the Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) gathered in Harrisburg on April 13 for fellowship, to hear education policy updates, and to award annual recognition to outstanding alumni.

The EPFP is a professional development program for individuals whose work record reflects strong leadership abilities and a concern for issues important to children and education. Participants in the Fellowship Program hold full-time positions in diverse organizations at the local, state, and national levels. Numerous school officials, including superintendents from across the commonwealth, have participated in the program, which is available in Pennsylvania through The Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC). Over the past 18 years, over 500 education, policy and community leaders have completed the one-year program.

The next cohort will begin in September. Applications will be available later this month. Watch the EPLC website for updates, https://www.eplc.org/.

RIGHT: Two EPFP alumni were honored with special recognition for contributions to public education and education policy. Pictured, with EPLC President Ron Cowell: Mark Stutz (L) was recognized for building an outstanding arts program in the Parkland SD and continuing community support for arts in the district; and Tina Viletto, Director of Community & Government Relations for Montgomery Co. I.U. 23, and a member of the PASA Legislative Committee, was recognized for her work in education policy and communications with school leaders and the General Assembly. Congratulations!

LEFT: Among those attending this first EPFP alumni luncheon were graduates from the 2012-13 cohort (pictured L-R): Ron Cowell, EPLC President; Barbara Walvort Jewett, PASA Assistant to the Executive Director; Mark Stutz, Dir. of Visual & Performing Arts, Parkland SD; Brent Kessler, Business Manager/Board Secretary, Central York SD and PASBO President-Elect; Eric Holtzman, Business Administrator, Tuscarora SD; and Dr. William Kerr, Superintendent, Norwin SD.
Time for Celebration
BY CONNIE R. KINDLER,
PASA CONSULTANT FOR
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It has been a year like no other… urgent school safety responses, continued funding concerns, lack of qualified teacher candidates, ongoing political upheaval, uncontrollable social media postings, rapid technological changes! The challenges of the past year go on and on.

May and early June are likely to become your busiest months yet. However, these months are filled with opportunities to enjoy the perks of your position. It is the time of the school year filled with an abundance of celebrations. Student recognition events at all levels and high school graduations are the good times, the occasions when you can witness and enjoy the impact that you and those that you lead have had on your students. Make and take the time to enjoy these successes that balance the difficulties you encounter as educational leaders.

During the end-of-year celebrations, revel in the results of your leadership and those that you empower to do the best job that they can. Don’t miss these opportunities because of the “to do” list that is waiting for you. It will be there when the celebrations have ended. Go! Be present! Enjoy!

As you celebrate your students’ successes, I celebrate you. I am honored to have the privilege of working with and getting to know so many outstanding women and men fully dedicated to the advancement of our youth. You provide safe havens for them. You advocate tirelessly for the resources that they need to thrive. You strive to hire the best role models to facilitate their learning. You manage the politics of education with civility. You engage your communities in the support of your schools! In addition, you prioritize the continued development of your own professional skills in order to stay on top of your game and lead cultures in which students can flourish. Most importantly, you rise above the hardships you face with passion for your mission, embracing your service to the noblest of causes, our children and their future. Step by step and person by person, your efforts make the world a better place.

Thank you!

Communication Tip of the Month

“The superintendent must guide and support the school board in its communications to keep the community, employees and students informed and involved. He must ensure transparency is a priority in all communications. A superintendent who keeps a board well informed usually will reap the benefits of a secure, positive experience.” — Terre Davis, former superintendent, president of TD and Associates and school board president in Colorado, from “Effectiveness Begins with Ongoing Communication,” as published in this month’s issue of AASA’s School Administrator. The May issue of AASA’s School Administrator examines the logistics of school schedules: later start hours for high schools, the elimination of the zero period” and the growing phenomenon of the four-day school week.

From the Women’s Caucus

Time for Reflection
BY DR. MICHELLE SAYLOR, CAUCUS PRESIDENT

The Women’s Caucus conference for 2018 may be behind us, but the networks we created, insight gained, and ideas we took away will frame the future.

I am sure we all walked away with something that resonated with our lives either professionally and/or personally. I know the ideas we explored will be nurtured within our organizations. They will help us lift those we serve and lead.

There are four takeaways that I’d like to share. First is the concept of courageous leadership and, more specifically, the concept of being brave enough to question and discuss the non-discussables. How often are we asking questions worth answering? As Dr. Severn’s shared, it is only through having the courage to question and name the problem that we can first begin to turn our challenge into opportunity.

In conjunction with this, during her talk, she shared a quote that deeply resonated with me: “Expectations are like a hug in a chaotic world.” I think this quote begs all of us for reflection. Setting clear expectations - and holding yourself and others accountable to them – can take courage, but it is in those expectations that we find the power to lift ourselves as we lift others.

This brings me to the third idea that made me pause and think: we need to speak truth to power. The stories shared by Helen Sobehart, Tracey Severns, and Emilie Lonardi clearly illustrated how this concept can transform lives, and lift others in the process. What stories do you have?

Finally, in a presentation by Dr. Patricia Mulroy, she shared touchstones for strengthening relational trust. One of them, “when the going gets rough, turn to wonder,” speaks to our work as leaders. It can be challenging, it can be emotionally exhausting. It takes courage, tenacity, resilience and truth. But most of all, it takes “wonder.”

As we all move into the final weeks of our school year and begin preparation for 2018-19, please remember these concepts. Be courageous, question deeply, speak truth to power, and don’t forget to wonder.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our conference in spring of 2019. In the meantime keep lifting: lift others, lift yourself, make a difference. As always, take time to reach out to the women around you, those you mentor, those you meet, and those with whom you work. Support them in their innovation and urge them to take the risks necessary to create the changes we need to see within our system. Encourage them, if they haven’t already, to join our organization and engage a network that is eager to help them grow.

PASA membership renewals for 2018-19 will go out in June. Remember: 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. Watch for it!
April 26 marked a noteworthy anniversary. Most people couldn’t tell you what happened on that day in U.S. history, and it’s likely most in the education world don’t know either. But a report published on that day 35 years ago has impacted public education perhaps more than any other: *A Nation at Risk*.

In a 2013 article published in *NEA Today*, then NEA President Dennis Van Roekel credited *A Nation At Risk* with moving public education to the top of the national agenda, but added that the report also became a catalyst for today’s so-called “reform” movement.

“In some ways, *A Nation at Risk* was helpful, but what we’ve seen in the past 30 years are too many misguided efforts – most notably No Child Left Behind – that have only compounded the problems the report identified,” Van Roekel said. “Educators across the country work hard to give their students the great education they deserve, but lawmakers cannot keep pulling the rug out from under them with bad ideas. We need to do what we know works. We need to fully fund our schools, invest in early childhood education, increase parental involvement and keep our class sizes small, especially in high-poverty schools at the lower grades. This is how we’ll make our schools work for every student.”

We need to do what we know works. Amen.

Ask yourself how different public education would be today if fact-based decision-making rather than politics and ideology would have been informing education policy since 1983, when public education was scapegoated as the cause for our misery. Would charter schools and vouchers be such a big part of the conversation? Would the need for adequate state funding of public schools be controversial? Would states and school districts be filling corporate coffers at an increasing rate? Would school leaders be spending more time trying to fill $5.2 million budget deficits than directing professional development and enhancing student learning? Would the public and the media question whether public schools are, indeed, essential to our communities and to the common good?

Unfortunately, those issues are part of the negative fallout from *A Nation At Risk*, a report Marc Tucker of *Education Week* recently described as one that its authors filled with facts to “fit the narrative,” despite evidence of actual, growing public school success. As he calls it, “fake news.”

Because of the negative effects of *A Nation at Risk* (and the spin that followed it), lawmakers and policymakers – and the public – need constant reminders that the vast majority of students in our public schools are excelling, that schools and students that are struggling need more resources, not less, that leaders and teachers in public schools are committed to student learning, that a numerical score is not the be-all and end-all indicator of student achievement, school success or teacher skill – and that public schools are essential to our democracy, not a failing wasteland.

The Resolutions Committee worked hard last month to draft changes to the 2017-18 Resolutions, which informs PASA’s advocacy efforts at the Capitol. And it is ironic how many priority issues in that document relate to the impact of *A Nation at Risk*. This spring, this election year, is already an advocacy challenge. But PASA will be working with other education associations on issues that impact your schools.

We need you to advocate as well. Please watch for Updates and Alerts that we send your way this spring. We don’t use the email system lightly – when you hear from us, it is important. Stay informed! And grow your advocacy skills. Take advantage of the advocacy training workshops this month (https://www.pasa-net.org/advocacytraining) and stay in contact with your legislators.

And join us on June 19 for Advocacy Day at the Capitol to learn more about the issues and speak with elected officials on education issues. (Call Deb Banks in the PASA office at 717-540-4448 to register!).

Anniversaries should be a cause for celebration. But this is one anniversary that requires our effort to counteract the ongoing negative spin generated by a single report. The real “risk” for the nation is not the failure of public schools. It is the failure to adequately support them and recognize their success, despite the odds. And that is the message we need to send.
COMING SOON….
Membership Renewal

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.

Watch for your membership renewal notice to arrive by mail in early June!

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

Advocacy News…

LEFT: PASA Executive Director Dr. Mark DiRocco (at the podium) joined educational leaders for the PSBA press conference at the Capitol on April 16 to support the annual PSBA “State of Education” report.

BELOW: Dr. Mark DiRocco also participated in a town hall meeting at Susquehanna Township High School on April 19 concerning school safety issues. The event, hosted by PASA, PSEA, PSBA, PA Principals Association, PA PTA and Attorney General Josh Shapiro, provided a forum for professionals, students, and parents to share ideas for how to strengthen school safety, beginning a public dialogue about solving existing challenges and demonstrating that this is a responsibility of the whole community. The Pennsylvania Cable Network livestreamed the forum.

BELOW: PASA thanks PASA President Dr. Emilie Lonardi (pictured), Superintendent of Downingtown Area SD, Jonathan Bauer, Principal of Upper Merion HS, and Tiffany Hodgson, member of the Wissahickon School Board, for participating in the Governor’s and Auditor General’s Safety Task Force Meeting at Technical HS in Phoenixville on April 17.

Advocacy

School Leader Advocacy
Training Underway

The second round of School Leader Advocacy Training is underway! Led by PASA, PASBO, PAIU, PSBA, PARSS and the PA Principals Association, the half-day training sessions (9 am to noon) are aimed at helping you become an awesome advocate for your LEA and for public education.

The spring advocacy training session will pick up on the fall session, providing a more in-depth look at engaging legislators, along with a focus on working with the press and traditional media and engaging in social media for advocacy.

More importantly, you’ll learn how to:
• build relationships with and educate your legislators through direct engagement;
• build relationships with your local reports and editors;
• create newsworthy press conferences, events and articles;
• draft and place op-eds and letters to the editor; and
• use social media to mobilize your network to reach your advocacy targets.

Remaining sessions in the training schedule are:
Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4 Monday, May 14
Berks County Intermediate Unit 14 Thurs., May 17

(Watch for webinar information!)
Register via SurveyMonkey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018advocacytraining
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!!

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

REGISTRATION OPEN

FEATURED KEYNOTERS:

SIMON T. BAILEY  DR. BILL ZIEGLER

SPONSORED BY…
PA Principals Association
PA Assn. of School Administrators
PA Assn. for Middle Level Education
PA Assn. for Supervision & Curriculum Development

To register, see the PPA website at https://www.paprincipals.org.

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)

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.

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.
### Registration Opens Soon!
Watch for registration to open for this special conference for school district leaders! Don’t miss the special speakers and featured presenters…

### 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 is now open! Get your reservations in now! Reservation deadline is September 17.

### Final Call for Session Presentations: Due June 1
PASA and PSBA seek relevant and compelling presentations for the 2018 School Leadership Conference educational sessions that encourage administrators and board members to think broadly about their respective roles in education.

This year’s education session schedule will not include topic-specific tracks. Potential subjects areas may include governance, planning, leadership, advocacy, ethics, communication and evaluation. Presentation topics are open to all areas of education and training. See the conference website for details and information about how to submit your proposal AND for information about the conference.

### 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.

### Student Performers
Applications for student performing groups to participate in the fourth annual Student Showcase, Oct. 18, 2018, 7-9:30 p.m., are due on June 15. See the conference website for details.

**Conference website:** [https://www.paschoolleaders.org/](https://www.paschoolleaders.org/)

### Seeking Proposal Presentations…
AASA is searching for the “best of the best” presenters to engage attendees in conversations around cutting edge trends, issues and solutions in education during the 2019 National Conference on Education, scheduled for Feb. 14-16 in Los Angeles. The theme of next year’s conference is “Effective Leadership Creates Success.”

Participation as a presenter will help attendees increase their leadership skills and professional competence, provide for an exchange of ideas and solutions and help attendees address the controversial issues facing today’s educators. In doing so, AASA, along with those selected presenters, will create a community of learning that will help America’s public school education leaders improve the quality of education for all children.

**Click here** for information on the call for proposals. Don’t forget to “Save the Date” for the 2019 conference!

### Fighting against Vouchers in Washington…
AASA is part of a broad coalition of associations and military groups advocating in Washington AGAINST proposed legislation that would provide “educational opportunity grants” (vouchers) to some military families as part of a defense bill. As does AASA, PASA opposes this attempt. Read this week’s “Advocate” for more on this issue – and the importance of YOUR involvement in this fight – which is happening THIS MONTH!

Also, see **Public Loss, Private Gain: How School Voucher Tax Shelters Undermine Public Education**, a new report by AASA and the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), which exposes how state and federal tax policy promotes the privatization of education funding, while simultaneously draining public coffers to enable savvy taxpayers to turn a profit.

### Legislative Advocacy Conference…
AASA members, don’t forget 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 for more information, [www.aasa.org](http://www.aasa.org).

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](http://www.aasa.org) or contact the PASA office.
The Voucher Fight of 2018: Are You Weighing In?

BY SASHA PUDELSKI,
AASA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ADVOCACY

engaged) has succeeded in making Republicans on the House Armed Services Committee uncomfortable enough with this specific proposal that the committee vote planned for May 9th on the bill will not come up for a vote. However, **while we may have won the first battle to protect Impact Aid funding from vouchers, the war is far from over.**

Because they were denied a vote in committee, Heritage and its allies need to rally enough votes to pass this on the floor of the House. The week of May 21st is when the House will be considering this bill as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). NDAA is a must-pass bill to fund the Department of Defense every year. The Senate Armed Services Committee will also be considering this bill as part of their mark-up of NDAA.

If you haven’t weighed in yet with House or Senate representatives—please do! **YOUR** voice makes a difference in debate. After personally attending dozens of meetings with House staff over the past three months about the Impact Aid voucher bill, I was repeatedly heartened to hear that they had already heard from school leaders who expressed “strong concerns” with this proposal and that your voices were making a meaningful difference in how Congressional offices viewed the bill.

The takeaway for school leaders: It doesn’t matter the opponent—YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

You are a highly-respected constituent and all the money and political pressure from the other side doesn’t always equate to victory. Keep weighing in. **We must stop this new federal education voucher scheme from coming to fruition.**

Ironically, while this battle against vouchers is heading to a showdown this month in Washington, the same may be true in Pennsylvania, as **SB 2**, a bill providing educational savings accounts (vouchers) to many students in the commonwealth, may be heading to a vote in the Senate Education Committee this month also. Lawmakers both in Harrisburg AND in Washington need to hear from every school leader on this issue! Numbers matter!

Quick Glance:
PASA Programs

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<td>Nov. 1-2</td>
<td>Aspiring to Leadership Workshops (Allegheny I.U. 3)</td>
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*PIL-approved

See the PASA website at [www.pasa-net.org](http://www.pasa-net.org) for more information on the PASA Professional Development Program.
Noteworthy Quotes…

On Public Education…

“The release of A Nation at Risk marked the hinge point of a sea change in the politics of American education. It delegitimized the teachers and school administrators in our public schools and ushered in policies based on a profound distrust of the very professionals on whom the improvement of the system would depend. The subtext of the ‘reforms’ … is the charge that it is the regular public school teachers, their unions and the school administrators who are responsible for the alleged failure of the country’s schools and reform should be about circumventing or at least weakening their control of the system.” – Marc Tucker, from “A Nation at Risk Was Fake News,” as published in Education Week, (5/2/18)

“The current debate over school funding must move beyond teacher salaries and whether the books in public schools are tattered. Those conversations ignore the systematic policies that disadvantage public schools. Increasing public school teachers’ salaries alone won’t fix the problem. The public school teaching force has already shrunk. Class sizes have already risen. And the rules that advantage charter and private schools remain firmly in place. Long-term solutions require a reexamination of these preferences. As a state constitutional matter, the law requires that states make public education their first priority. It is not enough to make education one of several competing priorities. And, as a practical matter, states cannot continue to ask public schools to work with whatever is left over and then criticize them for doing a poor job. This cycle creates a circular justification for dismantling public education when states should be repairing it.” – Derek Black, professor of law at the University of South Carolina, from “States Are Favoring School Choice at a Steep Cost to Public Education,” as published on The Conversation web site (4/24/18)

On Vouchers…

“It may seem counterintuitive, but conservative organizations from the Heritage Foundation, to FreedomWorks, to the Club for Growth are pushing an education bill this year that would significantly enlarge the bureaucracy at the U.S. Department of Education. That’s right, the same organizations that have decried the ‘bloated education bureaucracy’ and that give awards to members of Congress who are “fighting daily to shrink government and the federal bureaucracy” are urging congress to significantly increase secretarial authority over K-12 and higher education. Why are they doing this? To create a new federal education voucher program that would allow dollars to flow out of public schools and into private schools and businesses.” – Sasha Pudelski, AASA Advocacy Director, from “Conservatives’ Education Bill Will Increase Federal Bureaucracy,” as published on edexcellence.net, 4/13/18

“Mostly pushed by the right, vouchers have been peddled as a way to help students in low-achieving public schools be liberated from them and get a better education elsewhere. The thinking is that students can withdraw the annual per-pupil funding they receive, and spend it in other ways, such as enrolling in a private, parochial or charter school. But vouchers have largely taken on a bad odor, as critics have persuasively argued that they are a means to defund public education, and, crucially, defund schools that are already on the ropes, rather than substantially help students get a better education.” – from “Educational Savings Account Proposal Is Another Voucher Scheme,” an editorial published in The Observer-Reporter, 5/6/18

PASA Flyer
MEMBER NEWS

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.”)

REGION 4

Brian Tokar has been appointed superintendent of the Greenville Area SD, effective July 1. He currently serves as assistant to the superintendent. Tokar will replace Mark Ferrara, who is retiring.

REGION 12

Joseph Mancuso III has been appointed superintendent of the Eastern York SD, effective July 1. He currently serves as assistant superintendent in the South Middleton SD (I.U. 15). Mancuso will replace Dr. Darla Pianowski, who is retiring after serving more than 20 years in the district and as superintendent since 2006.

REGION 13

Dr. Robert Hollister, superintendent of the Eastern Lancaster County SD, has received a five-year contract renewal through June 30, 2023. He has served as the district’s superintendent for the past 10 years.

Dr. Christopher Adams, superintendent of the Hempfield SD, has announced he will retire from the position, effective January 2019. He has served as superintendent since July 2015.

REGION 14

Dr. Melissa Brewer, superintendent of the Antietam SD, has announced she will retire at the end of the school year. Brewer has been the district’s superintendent since 2015.

Andrew Netznik has been appointed superintendent of the Tulpehocken Area SD. He has been serving as acting superintendent in the district following the departure of Dr. Robert Schultz, who is now serving as superintendent of the Lower Dauphin SD (I.U. 15).

REGION 15

Christina Spielbauer has been appointed superintendent of the Carlisle Area SD. She had been serving as the district’s acting superintendent following the retirement of John Friend.

REGION 16

Chris Venna, principal of the Shamokin Area Middle/High School, has been appointed superintendent of the district, effective July 1. He will replace James Zack, who is retiring on June 30.

REGION 21

Dr. J. Michael Schilder, superintendent of the East Penn SD, has announced he will retire at the end of the school year. He has served as a superintendent for 11 years, four of them in the district.

REGION 23

Dr. Deborah Wheeler, superintendent of the Upper Dublin SD, has announced she will retire at the end of the school year. She has served as a superintendent for 10 years, four of them in the district.

REGION 24

Dr. Michele Orner has been appointed superintendent of the Octorara Area SD, effective July 1. She will replace Dr. Thomas Newcome, who is retiring after 15 years in the position. Orner is former superintendent of the Halifax Area SD (I.U. 15). David Hatfield currently is serving as acting superintendent in Halifax.

REGION 28

Joseph Bradley has announced he will resign from his position as superintendent of the Purchase Line SD, effective June 30. He has served as district superintendent since November 2013.

Michael Vuckovich has been appointed superintendent of the Indiana Area SD, effective Sept. 1. He will serve as assistant superintendent in the district beginning July 1. Current superintendent Dale Kirsch will retire from the position on August 31. Vuckovich currently serves as substitute superintendent of the Greater Johnstown SD.

PASA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

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

MAY

14 Spring Advocacy Training Workshop (I.U. 4)
17 Spring Advocacy Training Workshop (I.U. 14)
28 PASA office closed

JUNE

6 Professional Development Committee meeting (virtual)
19 Lobby Day (Capitol)

JULY

4 PASA office closed
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)