

## AASA CONFERENCE RECAP

PASA members were among those attending the American Association of School Administrators' (AASA) National Conference on Education last month in Nashville (Feb. 17-19). The conference, the only national conference for chief school administrators, featured sessions, speakers, special workshops and roundtables designed to help administrators in both their professional and personal development, with the theme **"Leading for Student-Centered, Equity-Focused Education."**

### *Conference Sessions: PA Presenters and Facilitators*

Pennsylvania school leaders were well represented among the facilitators and session presenters at the conference. Those who led sessions or served on session panels included:

- **Brian White**, Superintendent, Butler Area – "Bold Engagement with Families and Communities"

- **Monica Lamar**, Assistant Superintendent, Pittsburgh – "School Improvement Framework: Conditions for Systemic Change"
- **Jill Jacoby**, Assistant Executive Director for Teaching & Learning, Allegheny I.U. 3 and former Superintendent, Fort Cherry – "Building Capacity in Rural Districts for Future-Driven Learning"
- **Khalid Mumin**, Superintendent, Lower Merion – "Book Publishing: How Superintendents Can Move from Concept to Published Work"
- **Todd Keruskin**, Superintendent, **Steve Hartnett**, Director of Digital Teaching & Learning, and **Keith Konyk**, Assistant Superintendent, Elizabeth Forward – "Personalized Learning in a Pandemic: Strategies for Success During Tumultuous Times"
- **Richard Fry**, former superintendent, Big Spring – "Listening to Lead: Using Student Voice to Drive Equity, SEL"

- **Caroline Johns**, Superintendent, and **Nicole Smith**, Principal, Northgate, and **Cynthia Everett**, Supervisor of Behavioral Health, Allegheny Health Network and Northgate SD – "The Chill Project: A Comprehensive Approach to Social-Emotional Learning"
- **Bryan O'Black**, Superintendent, Shaler Area – "Advocating for Districts and Communities Through Social Media Channels: Strategies and Campaigns That Help Share Districts' Success Stories"

*See AASA Conference Recap, page 4*

## DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MARCH 31

## PASA 'AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT' RECOGNIZE PUBLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

PASA is seeking nominations for the three special awards recognizing leadership in public education – and we need YOUR help in identifying those among us who are deserving of special recognition.

Over the past two years, school administrators have had to utilize creative and inspiring leadership and out-of-the-box thinking to lead school systems forward. A major lesson learned with today's challenges is that strong, positive leadership in education is essential to the success of public education, no matter how instruction is delivered and no matter the educational environment.

That is why it is important to recognize the good work that school administrators have been doing to lead school systems in a positive direction, meet the needs of students and staff, and advocate for public

education. The PASA Awards of Achievement were developed for just this purpose.

### **The awards fall into three categories:**

#### **\* Service to the Profession**

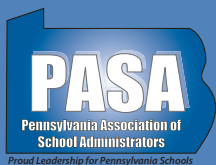
Demonstrating commitment to excellence as evidenced through notable service to the profession. Examples of this service may include developing an effective professional development program for school district educators, demonstrating leadership in administrator preparation programs, school study councils or other professional development efforts, or promoting the education profession through research, writing or organizational service.

**Sponsored by: Horace Mann**

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

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#### PASA Members:

Please report your appointments, renewals, awards or special achievements, or that of others in your region to **Barbara Jewett** at PASA either by phone (717) 540-4448, by fax (717) 540-4405, or via email at [pasa@pasa-net.org](mailto:pasa@pasa-net.org). Copy deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. MARK DIROCCO

# ANOMALY OF THE 2021 STATE ASSESSMENT EXAMS



On Friday, March 4, the Pennsylvania Department of Education released the 2020-21 PSSA and Keystone Exam results. As expected, the scores were lower than the last time the assessments were administered in 2019 prior to the pandemic. The percentage of students scoring advanced or proficient in 2021 were lower than the 2019 scores, from 3.5% to 11% lower.

In their release of the data, the Department indicated that several factors affected the 2021 scores, including a 26% drop in the percentage of students taking the exams: from 97% participation in 2019 to just 71% in 2021. Additionally, school districts were given the option to administer the exams in an extended window allowing for spring, summer and fall testing, which is a very irregular procedure and not conducive to a standardized administration of the exams.

Of course, the most significant set of variables to consider is the wide array of schooling scenarios that students experienced during the 2020-21 school year, ranging from mostly virtual learning to hybrid schedules to fully in-person. However, even the hybrid and in-person learning options experienced significant disruptions in many schools, with COVID-19 outbreaks requiring quarantines and brief periods of remote learning. To say the least, it was a year of significant disruption.

Deputy Secretary of Education Dr. Sherri Smith stated to the *Patriot News* (3/4/22) that, "Given these circumstances, the results should not be viewed as a complete, representative sample of all students in the commonwealth, nor should a single assessment during an atypical school year be considered a true metric of student performance... We will continue to work closely with schools to assist in the planning and implementation of evidence-based programs."

Many state legislators had been requesting the release of the 2021 test scores for some time as they begin to focus on the 2022-23 state budget and potential School Code bills. One legislator was quoted as saying, "We should be worried because these tests confirm what we have seen with our children over the last two years. The proof is clear. The learning loss our children have experienced, by no fault of their own, is immense and very real." He added the pressure is now on educators, parents, and school leaders to work with policymakers to address it and close the gaps.

While I agree that the results were concerning, they were not unexpected based on the disruptions of the pandemic and more than a quarter of the state's children not taking the tests. It is **not** reasonable to jump to definitive conclusions based on the 2021 data.

It's interesting to point out that the 2021 state assessment exams were better than almost **any** year of exam results for cyber charter schools. Yet, there was no mention of that. I find it hard to understand how the same people that promote cyber charter schools as a quality choice option for parents don't ever want to comment on their poor test results.

School district leaders and staff members have worked very hard during the 2021-22 school year to accelerate learning and address learning gaps that occurred in the previous year. The federal ESSER Funds have provided school districts with the financial resources they need to provide extra help and resources to students that normally would not have been available them with normal school revenues. Consequently, the 2022 state exam data will give us a much better picture of any learning loss that occurred during the pandemic. The 2022 exams will be administered within a few short weeks, and school district will have the results by early summer as we return to a normal testing and reporting schedule. We can begin to draw some conclusions at that point and focus on the areas that need the greatest interventions to assist our children.

PASA agrees that we need to work with legislators, parents, educators, and school leaders to pull our students out of the aftermath of the pandemic and provide them with the bright future they deserve through a quality education. In order to accomplish that goal, we have to work together, not point fingers, cast blame, or resort to unproven schemes such as vouchers and scholarships to "improve" education. Rather, we must put our combined resources and efforts to helping our public schools with resources and strategies that work.



## 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](http://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.

### In Budget & Finance News

**School Funding Trial:** Closing arguments in the school funding trial before Commonwealth Court are scheduled for March 10.

**State Revenues:** Pennsylvania collected \$2.4 billion in General Fund revenue in February, which was \$155.7 million, or 6.8 percent, more than anticipated. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total \$28.6 billion, which is \$2 billion, or 7.5 percent, above estimates.

### Legislative News

**Teacher Training Mandates:** A resolution that would direct the Joint State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee to look at current teacher training mandates (HR 163) was adopted by the House last month. PASA has been invited to participate on the advisory committee.

**New Property Tax Elimination Plan:** Rep. Frank Ryan (R-Lebanon) has introduced **HB 113**, a bill that would both eliminate school property taxes and make it illegal for a Pennsylvania school district to impose one. The plan calls for tax shifting to generate the \$16 billion needed to replace the lost property tax revenue for schools, including new taxes on certain retirement income and food and clothing.

### In State News

**Release of 2021 Test Scores:** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) last Friday released **results** from the 2020-2021 school year administration of federally required state-level assessments: the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), Keystone Exams, and the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA). Pennsylvania will not be using the test results for evaluations. According to the PDE, the variability in testing periods, sharply reduced student participation rates, and other factors make comparisons between school entities and across school years improper.

**Redistricting Update:** The state Supreme Court last month, in a 4-3 decision, ordered that a congressional map backed by the National Redistricting Action Fund be adopted to outline new congressional districts. The decision allows for signature-gathering to commence for the primary ballot, scheduled for May 17. House Republicans

continue to challenge the redistricting map for PA House seats, with a final decision pending.

**New PIAA Championship Site:** The PIAA Board of Directors last month decided to move a few fall sports championships, including football, soccer, volleyball and field hockey, from Hersheypark Stadium to Cumberland Valley High School for 2022-25. The Board cited decreased spectator numbers for the change.

### In National News

**U.S. Innovation and Competition Act & The America Competes Act:** (from AASA) In his State of the Union speech on March 1, President Biden spoke about the "Innovation Act," referring to the Senate's bipartisan U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) which was approved last June. On February 2, the House passed The America COMPETES Act, which is their response to USICA. The House and Senate will now begin to reconcile the two different bills with the goal to move a final legislative package soon.

Most notably for K-12 education, both proposals include two grant programs:

**\*Improving access to elementary and secondary computer science education grants** – a competitive grant program for school districts to increase equitable access to computer science education and computational thinking skills. State education agencies (SEAs) will apply for the grants then subgrant them to school districts. Priority will be given to districts with high percentages of students from low-income families and who partner with HBCUs or minority-serving institutions.

**\*Postsecondary STEM Pathway Grants for SEAs** – two or more school districts and the state's public higher education system to support the development and implementation of postsecondary STEM pathways. These pathways would consist of a sequence of high school courses focused on STEM education that provide at least 12 credit hours—or the equivalent coursework—toward a recognized postsecondary credential, and may include advanced coursework, a dual or concurrent enrollment program, or an early college high school program.

Both proposals also include investments in research on preK-12 STEM education and workforce development in rural areas and engaging rural educators to enhance STEM knowledge.

### COMING UP

It's the calm before the spring storms in Harrisburg. Appropriations hearings on Gov. Wolf's state budget plan continue the next two weeks before lawmakers return to session. If comments and questions during the hearings are any indication, there is a significant chasm between what the governor wants to spend, including spending on education, and what Republican leaders are willing to consider, despite continuing growth in state revenue and a significant amount of federal COVID aid still unspent. All eyes, meanwhile, continue to be focused on the May primary, so two things are likely: 1) not much movement toward solving budget disagreements before May 17 but 2) a lot of movement in pushing forward Republican policy priorities before the primary, which could include more voucher plans. Stay tuned for the latest information by following us on **Twitter** @PASASupts.



## Contacting PASA

The PASA Office is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays. Please call (717) 540-4448 to leave a message for any staff member. You may also call the Executive Director directly at (717) 514-8718 at any time, or email us at [pasa@pasa-net.org](mailto:pasa@pasa-net.org).

In addition, you may send an email directly to specific PASA staff members. ([Click here](#) for the staff list.) Please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions and concerns!



# AASA CONFERENCE RECAP

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- **Shane Hotchkiss**, Superintendent, Bermudian Springs – “Supporting Superintendents Through Social Media: Providing Encouragement and a Listening Ear”
- **Samuel Lee**, Superintendent, Bensalem Township – “Transforming Learning and Leadership Through Brain Science: A Paradigm Shift”

## Graduates of AASA Programs

Pennsylvania administrators were recognized in the conference booklet for completing several AASA professional development programs in 2020, 2021 and 2022:

\*AASA National Superintendent Certification Program: **Dion Betts** (Chambersburg Area), **Allyn Roche** (Upper Perkiomen), **Charles Lentz** (New Hope-Solebury), **Christopher Marchese** (Avon Grove), **William Gretzula** (Pennsbury) and **Wagner Marseille** (Cheltenham Township)

\*Aspiring Superintendents Academy for Female Leaders: **Lisa Hess** (Reading)

\*Aspiring Superintendents Academy for Latino and Latina Leaders: **Tommy Henley** (Lancaster)

\*Aspiring Superintendents Academy: **Richard Hornberger** (Ephrata Area)

\*Aspiring Superintendents Academy Blended Learning Model: **Christopher Trickett** (Wilson), **Nadine Garvin** (Central Bucks) and **Anna Smith** (Philadelphia)

\*AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy: **George Fitch, Jr.** (York City), **Kevin Bivins** (Pittsburgh), **Monica Lamar** (Pittsburgh) and **William Alexander Seng** (Allentown)

## At the Conference

RIGHT: Curtis Cain, superintendent of the Wentzville School District in Wentzville, Mo., was named the National Superintendent of the Year during a ceremony Thursday afternoon on the stage at the 1st General Session. (Photo by LifeTouch)



LEFT: Dr. Bridget O'Connell (center), superintendent of the Palisades SD, was among state 2022 Superintendents of the Year who were recognized during the conference.

RIGHT: Fenwick School superintendents are the first responders of democracy — they survive and help others to survive, said Leslie Fenwick, dean emeritus of Howard University's School of Education and keynote during the 2nd General Session. She emphasized the need for the public education system to revolutionize and transform, saying that state constitutions are “living, breathing documents. They are not dead.” (Photo by LifeTouch)



LEFT: Speaking alongside AASA Executive Director Daniel Domenech, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona told a packed ballroom at the Music City Center that school leaders must “meet the moment” and “bring education to another level.” (Photo by LifeTouch)



LEFT: Keynote speakers Mark Edwards (left) and Michael Fullan (right), co-authors of *Spirit Work and the Science of Collaboration*, urged educators to practice “Spirit Work” to raise school culture, starting with making sure students know they are loved. (Photo by LifeTouch)

continued on next page

# AASA CONFERENCE RECAP

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LEFT: The declining commitment to properly fund public education and the well-financed political agenda to expand vouchers and undermine the operations of public schools threaten not just public education but American democracy itself, said legal scholar Derek W.

Black, author of *Schoolhouse Burning: Public Education and the Assault on American Democracy*, during the Federal Relations Luncheon. Black stated that state-elected officials who are pushing vouchers are not dedicated to ensuring the state constitutional responsibility to adequate public education to every student in the state. (Photo by LifeTouch)

## Heard at the Conference:

"There's an old saying that schools reflect society. The challenges that districts are experiencing are not isolated to schools, they are everywhere. The key is to lean into the disagreements but not become disagreeable. We may be done with the pandemic, that does not mean it's done with us. Keeping calm, actively listening and keeping students at the center of our decisions will be critical for all of us as we continue to move forward." – Curtis Cain, 2022 National Superintendent of the Year

"If you have the courage to do the work, if you have the courage to talk about the work, have the courage to talk about it on social media." – Marlon Styles, superintendent in Middletown, Ohio

"The future is something we create. Administrators should look at what is no longer a fit for their organization ... and invent a different future for the learner.... Somebody needs to wake up every day in your system thinking that there's a fire. We gotta get out of here, we gotta look to the future. That's where we need to go. There has to be somebody that does that." – Raymond McNulty, president of Successful Practices Network and a key player in AASA's Learning 2025 initiative.

"Many superintendents have reported that they have been able to keep going due to the support and encouragement of colleagues. I have heard numerous stories of superintendents joining together to support one another when they needed it most. That has been my story too. I am here today, still standing, still serving and still leading, not because of me, but because of amazing friends and colleagues who have had my back." – Paul Imhoff, AASA President

## Mark your calendars!

**2023 AASA National Conference on Education**  
**February 16-18 in San Antonio, Texas**

## Photography Credit:

Where noted, photos were provided by LifeTouch, official photographer of the AASA Conference. Other photos taken by Dr. Mark DiRocco, PASA Executive Director.



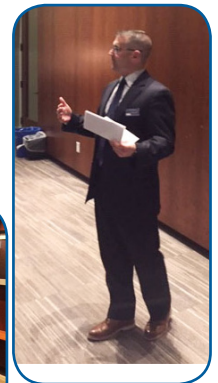
ABOVE: Dr. Amy Sichel (center), former Superintendent of Abington SD, was among female AASA Past-Presidents attending the Effie H. Jones memorial luncheon during the conference. (Photo by LifeTouch)

## Pennsylvanians at the PASA Reception

Pennsylvanians and sponsor representatives attended the Pennsylvania Reception during the AASA Conference. The reception was held at the Country Music Hall of Fame across from the Convention Center.



RIGHT: Dr. Jay Burkhart, PASA President, greeted reception guests.



## THANK YOU TO OUR RECEPTION SPONSORS:

**Questeq:** providing highly reliable technology infrastructure and improved data management that bridges the gap between technology and curriculum and ultimately drives innovation in the classroom

**Newsela:** providing an Instructional Content Platform that combines engaging, leveled content with integrated formative assessments and insights to supercharge engagement and learning in every subject

**McClure Company:** providing expertise in engineering, performance, construction, and service from pre-construction to mechanical engineering, and from simple projects to complex solutions

**Rhithm:** bringing SEL & EQ to the larger education system to positively impact the lives of as many students and teachers as possible utilizing a wellness check-in tool, curriculum, data and other resources

**R-Zero:** a biosafety company dedicated to making spaces safer by designing the most effective technologies and protocols to reduce the world of deadly pathogens utilizing a suite of solutions

**PSBA Insurance Trust:** providing superior insurance services and programs designed specifically for the unique needs of Pennsylvania's member school entities



# SUPPORT YOUR PERSONAL WELLNESS

BY DR. JAY BURKHART, 2021-22 PASA PRESIDENT



I have noticed that I find myself engaged in conversations with my colleagues, family members and friends about the importance of mental health for our students, staff, family members and ourselves. I am rather confident that many, if not all, of you have also had similar conversations and explored resources and supports for your students and staff.

It would be an understatement to say mental health is one of the most important topics that our educational system must address. We can see the impact of mental health in our school systems each and every day.

I have little doubt that all of you are working with the resources you have identified to support your students and your staff as they relate to mental health and wellness. Superintendents are, by nature, problem solvers and fixers. It would not be uncommon for us to talk with a fellow superintendent and share a question or a challenge and walk away with several suggestions to help address the issue and more than likely a contact person who can also provide assistance. But, along with that drive to solve problems, superintendents often forget or overlook an important element – themselves.

So, my question is: What about you?

Our intermediate unit (LIU 12) has been working with our superintendents to focus on and support our personal wellness, to include mental health. Our IU has been working to arrange resources, including guest speakers, to provide us strategies to support our wellness.

Recently we had a physician from a local health care system attend our monthly meeting and lead us in a meditation exercise. It was an effective and real way to remind us about the importance of self-care, including making sure you take time for yourself. The exercise itself did not last more than 10 minutes, but I know I felt the benefits from the exercise for the rest of the day. Our presenter reminded us to make sure that we take time for this type of activity each day, much like we make sure we take time to eat lunch – if you even take time to eat lunch.

Mediation is not the only way we can promote a better self-wellness regiment. I also came across some additional strategies to promote better self-care. The suggestions are from Ms. Lauren Hodges, a leadership and performance consultant from Satellite Beach, Florida. Ms. Hodges provided several suggestions in an article from *The School Administrator* (June 2021). Some of her suggestions included the following:

- Set reminders to breathe deep each day.
- Block a lunch hour on your calendar so you can decompress.
- Protect time in your daily schedule to exercise.
- Build boundaries around phone usage and emails after the workday ends.

- Shut down your devices 30 minutes prior to bedtime to ensure 7-9 hours of quality sleep.

The examples listed are a few from Ms. Hodges. I am certain there are many more she and others can suggest to help us maintain our own personal wellness. So, as we look forward to warmer weather and being outside, I hope you take the advice of Ms. Hodges and other experts to share not only with your staff, but for you to practice on your own.

There are a lot of people who want to make sure you too maintain your personal wellness, and I am sure you do not want to let them down. So, I am hopeful you begin or continue your own journey to maintain your own personal wellness.

Stay well.

*Dr. Burkhart is superintendent of the South Western SD.*

## AWARDS

*continued from page 1*

### \* 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 during the Recognition Luncheon/Annual Meeting in September (TBA). 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 has been extended to March 31.**

For more information on the Awards of Achievement, see the PASA web site at [www.pasa-net.org/pasaawards](http://www.pasa-net.org/pasaawards).



# IT'S OBVIOUS

BY BARBARA WALVORT JEWETT, ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*"The obscure we see eventually. The completely obvious, it seems, takes longer." – Edward R. Murrow*

In 11 days, spring officially will have sprung. I call to mind Punxsutawney Phil's February 2nd prediction of six more weeks of winter, an event that seemed to have caused considerable angst among the general population. That puzzles me. After all, considering the reality of the solar/Gregorian calendar, in six weeks AND four days days beyond Phil's equinoctial prediction, winter will end and spring officially will have sprung. Six more weeks of winter. Hmm. Perhaps we should just call Phil "Mr. Obvious."

In that vein, here are some "Mr. Obvious" gems from Harrisburg: We label cyber charter schools a success, but we don't want to make them accountable for bad test scores.

We insist we can't use the budget surplus and unspent federal COVID aid to boost education funding big-time because we may need that money someday, but we also insist we can't boost education funding big-time when revenues are flat because we don't have the money.

We don't want to collect any data about the use and outcomes of EITC/OITC money because we don't need to know that, but we DO need to collect pages and pages and pages of seemingly endless data from school districts to make sure they are accountable for the funds they receive.

We believe every student in every school district should reach testing benchmarks, but we will argue in court that not every student is geared to perform well academically, whether because of family or environmental circumstances, so the money issue is moot.

We believe in local control, and we tell you that all the time (it's in our policy manual), but we believe it is our job to impose mandates on school districts concerning everything from instruction to management because, well, those in charge of school districts obviously don't know anything about education.

Here is what is truly obvious: Some people just can't get their story straight.

PASA makes no bones about our priorities. They are and have been pretty obvious:

\*PASA urges state policymakers and agencies to seek input from local public school officials when developing educational policy to coordinate consistent policies and guidance that support public schools in providing a healthy and safe learning environment for students.

\*PASA further believes that local officials must have decision-making authority and flexibility in the use of resources to best meet the unique needs of their respective districts rather than having specified state mandates and requirements imposed on all schools.

\*PASA believes that officials on the state and local level must focus decision-making with a lens on social justice and equitable access, services and educational opportunity for all students, families and communities to ensure that public education meets society's needs both now and in the future.

\*Finally, PASA believes that school communities and the larger public community must work together to ensure that each public school is equitably and adequately supported to meet the unique educational, health and safety needs and challenges of students in all communities throughout Pennsylvania.

(from PASA's 2021-22 Advocacy Priorities)

We're headed into the spring legislative session of crazy, in which compromise has become a dirty word and angling for primary votes supersedes all. There are many good people working in Harrisburg who "get it" and want to make decisions made on good facts, but their voices are being drowned out by the usual political mantras. That is increasingly obvious, unfortunately, and not at all good for school districts who are working to build academic gains and support for students' social, emotional and mental health.

The PASA Advocacy Committee is working toward developing a new version of PASA's Advocacy Priorities and will meet next month to craft our revised priorities for 2022-23. Something tells me that many of those revised priorities will be consistent with the current list.

What would be nice is to have the magic wand that would craft revised priorities for the General Assembly as well, something far less "obvious" than what we currently are experiencing. But magic wands are not reality. That's obvious.

So PASA and our members will continue to do what we can to make clear that legislation that truly supports school districts and public education must be a priority, not vouchers, not micromanaging, not diverting resources elsewhere.

That's obvious.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!



For breaking education news and the latest from the Capitol, follow us on Twitter @PASASupts.

Find what you need to know in the weekly "Education Update." Watch your email on **Mondays** for the E-Update and link to this weekly report, a source for the latest in education and budget news from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and the nation.



Check the PASA website at [www.pasa-net.org](http://www.pasa-net.org) for reports, testimony, the program and meeting schedule, archived Updates, the PASA Career Center (job postings)...and more!



# EDUCATION IS IN OUR NATIONAL DNA, SINCE THE BEGINNING

BY STEPHEN RODRIGUEZ, CAUCUS PRESIDENT



My wife often complains that I don't plan family vacations: I plan extended field trips. Guilty as charged. Each summer I love to find new things to learn, places to go, and museums to see!

A few years ago, we visited Boston, Massachusetts and the surrounding area. Minus the absolute worst traffic in the continental United States, it was the most historical city I've been to and brought the American Revolution to life.



But what keeps coming back to me as I interact with so many wonderful urban district superintendents each month is actually our visit to Plymouth Rock. Learning about the pilgrims and their flight from oppression resonated with me as I think about the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our current state of education. While we were there, we visited the national monument to the forefathers which has an interesting history as a museum itself – but that's a different story.



What is fascinating to consider is how resolute the Five Pillars of our forefathers were and yet how simple. These five things, most likely in their chronological order of importance to them, guided not only their action to break away from Europe and start new but also to build what would become arguably the greatest nation on Earth:

- ♦ FAITH
- ♦ MORALITY
- ♦ EDUCATION
- ♦ LAW
- ♦ LIBERTY

These were the pillars, the foundation our forefathers set to build a home they hoped would leave behind the tyranny and governmental control they left. As I walk through classrooms or speak at board meetings and par-

ent meetings, no one doubts the importance of education. We all want great opportunities for our children, and I don't feel the need to demonstrate how a good education is inextricably connected to the other four pillars. It's pretty obvious.

But perhaps if we spent more time contemplating our roots and heritage, we might spend less time arguing over small politics like Critical Race Theory or masking requirements in health and safety plans. Don't get me wrong: these are important issues to debate in the public square. What I'm questioning is our motive. It's easy to say education is important in Pennsylvania today, but it's quite another to sit down across the table from someone you disagree with and come to a consensus.

I can hardly make a claim to the origin of our national forefathers. Both my parents are first-generation in this country, and I married an immigrant, for goodness' sake! But we have adopted these very same pillars in our own lives, and I have to believe that they made a difference with our own children, who see education not as something broken or evil, but as a wonderful opportunity. It most certainly could use vast improvement, especially in urban settings, but it's an opportunity nevertheless, and one worth fighting for.

Very possibly by the time anyone reads this, the Commonwealth Court will likely be wrapping up the education lawsuit we've all been reading about for the past several months. This court case was seven years in the making and is long overdue.

If education is going to stay in our DNA as a nation and as a state, we must do a much better job of ensuring that all Americans, regardless of their zip code, can give their children, (the next generation of Americans), an education that will make them citizens their forefathers would be proud of – and us too!!

*Stephen Rodriguez is superintendent of the Pottstown School District.*



## MENTOR COACHING TIP OF THE MONTH

Mentor and coaching leaders engage with those they lead. "When you equip people, you teach them how to do a job. When you develop them, you are helping them to improve as individuals. When you continue to develop people, there is never a shortage of leaders to build the organization and help you carry the load." – Maxwell, J. (2011).

*The 360 – Degree Leader: Developing Your Influence from Anywhere in the Organization, 230, 236. Thomas Nelson.*



**STILL TIME TO REGISTER!**



**March 28, 2022 - VIRTUAL**

A one-day conference for superintendents, assistant superintendents, curriculum leaders, technology coordinators, principals, and student services & facility leaders

**Featuring**  
**DR. MICHAEL FULLAN**



***Leadership for System Change in Complex Times***

Reignite your passion and learn practical system leadership strategies for leading the way to a brighter future for our children and public education.

**PIL/Act 45 Approved for 40 hours**  
(upon completion of requirements)

**For registration, program, hotel accommodation  
and PIL/Act 45 information,  
see the PASA website at:  
<https://www.pasa-net.org/leadforum>**

# AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE FULLY HUMAN FOR A DAY

**BY DR. KIMBERLY I. MINOR**

I can't tell you how many times over the last eighteen months I wanted to replace the title "Superintendent" with the title "Human" on my door, at the end of my emails, and on my nameplate at school board meetings. Why? After all, I had worked for decades to earn that title. However, with each passing day, as the pandemic went from two weeks to two months to two years, and as the political turmoil and societal vitriol became directed at all of us in education, I felt my humanness stripped away with each passing day, and I became only a title.

Perhaps, that is why I found the foreword by Margaret Wheatley in the new book by Fullan and Edwards, *To Be Fully Human*, so incredibly inspiring.

She begins by asking readers to reflect on our own experiences with true collaboration, collaboration that made us feel "connected, energized, empowered, inspired, creative and purposeful." She asks us to recall the joy we felt in being together in those times and turn to those experiences now to strengthen us as we struggle in a world filled with anger, fear and the hate-filled anonymity of social media.

She writes, "Collaboration is not a process or technique. It is a means to discover what it feels like to be fully human, to experience the human spirit. Whatever the collaborative process, it is only when we connect at a deeper level—when we let go of our individual needs and focus on what the work needs from us—only then do we experience breakthroughs, insights, and possibilities beyond our expectations. Something palpable has changed, something new has entered the room."

Wheatley charges those of us in leadership to remember that "our work is to recognize, value, defend, and protect the human spirit, especially now—when life is under siege." With a foreword so powerful and so needed at this moment, the approaches contained in the book *Spirit Work and the Science of Collaboration* by Fullan and Edwards might be exactly what we all need right now to reconnect with our humanness so that we can again be energized to protect, defend, and encourage the humanness of those in our care.

If you have not done so already, please plan to register for **PASA's 2022 virtual Leadership Forum, *Leadership for System Change in Complex Times***, with a keynote by **Dr. Michael Fullan** on *Spirit Work and the Science of Collaboration*, on Monday, March 28, from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm.

Take this opportunity to be fully human for a day. It might just do wonders for your spirit.

*Dr. Minor is a member of the Professional Development Committee.*



# CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR AASA REPRESENTATIVES

PASA is seeking candidates for one Pennsylvania representative to the AASA Governing Board for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

Current PA representatives on the Board include Dr. Nicholas Guarente (Greenwood), Dr. Bridget O'Connell (Palisades), Lee Ann Wentzel (Ridley), Dr. Shane Hotchkiss (Bermudian Springs) and Dr. Gennaro R. Piraino, Jr. (Franklin Regional).

## About the Governing Board

The AASA Governing Board consists of representatives elected from each state. See the [PASA website](#) for a list of responsibilities of the Governing Board.

## Eligibility/Requirements

1. Each eligible candidate must have been an eligible voting member of **both** AASA and PASA for **at least** three years. ("Voting members of PASA" include those who are current members as *Commissioned Officer and Small District Leader* members. "Voting members of AASA" are those who are current members as Active, Institutional Active, Life or College Professor.)

2. Nominees must be committed to attending **two** AASA meetings per year, in July and February (beginning July 2022). Travel expenses are provided for the July meeting. Governing Board members are responsible for their own expenses to the February meeting, which coincides with the AASA National Conference on Education.

## Nominations

Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by current PASA members who are Commissioned Officer or Small District Leader members. No signatures or petitions are required.

As part of the election process, candidates must submit electronically to the PASA office **by March 18** a short biographical statement/letter (including involvement with AASA and PASA), goals for AASA, and reason(s) for seeking the position, along with a digital photograph.

**The election for PASA officers and the AASA Governing Board representative will be scheduled for early spring (TBA).**

**Questions?** Contact Barbara Jewett at [pasa@pasa-net.org](mailto:pasa@pasa-net.org).

## IMPORTANT DATES IN 2022!

### WOMEN'S CAUCUS SPRING CONFERENCE

**May 22-24 (Hotel Hershey)**

**Focus: Social, Emotional &  
Mental Health Support  
Registration is open!**

### SOUTHEAST WOMEN'S CAUCUS DINNER

**November 15 (King of Prussia)**



## REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

## 2022 Annual Spring Conference

**Sunday, May 22 – Tuesday, May 24**

**Hotel Hershey**

**"Leveraging Support for Social Emotional  
Well-Being"**

**30 PIL/Act 45 Hours**

**approval pending**

## FEATURED PRESENTERS:



**Hon. Camara Chatham Bartolotta**  
Member, PA Senate

**Gillian Huebner**  
*Finding the Magic in the Dust*



**Dr. Dana Milachovic and  
Dr. Stacey Molnar-Main**



**Universal School Approaches  
to Social, Emotional &  
Behavioral Wellness**



**Dr. Bridget  
O'Connell**  
2022 PA  
Superintendent  
of the Year

**\*\*PLUS\*\***

**Education Case Law Review**

**Legislative Update**

**Networking**

**Numerous education sessions focused on  
social-emotional well-being**

**See the PASA website at**

**[www.pasa-net.org/wcconf](http://www.pasa-net.org/wcconf)**

**for conference and registration details  
and hotel room updates!**





# 50th Anniversary of Title IX

By Tina M. Kane, Ed.D.  
Women's Caucus Secretary



In celebration of Women's History Month, the Women's Caucus would like to honor the Title IX evolution as it has had a significant impact on protecting girls and women. June 23, 2022 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the enactment of Title IX as a federal law. The law prohibits sex discrimination in all educational programs that receive federal funds.



## IN SCHOOLS

Title IX applies to schools, local and state educational agencies, and other institutions that receive federal funds from the Department of Education. Schools, local educational agencies, and other institutions that do not receive federal funding are not required to comply with Title IX.

## ON THE FIELD

The original focus of Title IX pertained to female athletes, because athletic programs are considered educational programs.



## WHO IS PROTECTED

Title IX protects all school students (male and female), faculty, and staff.



## OFF THE FIELD

Title IX has now evolved to include revisions and expansion to include sexual assault and transgender issues.



## WHEN ACCEPTING OUTSIDE FUNDS

Title IX requires that if a school accepts funds from any outside source and the source benefits a boys athletic program, the school is obligated by law to find resources somewhere to ensure that the girls program has the same benefit.



## WITH THE BUDGET

Title IX does not require boys' and girls' budgets to match dollar for dollar; however, the benefits must be equal.



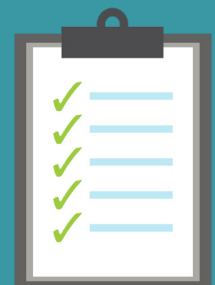
## LOCATION

Title IX only covers incidents that occur on school grounds at school regulated activities and places. Incidents that occur off school premises or online fall outside of the scope of Title IX.

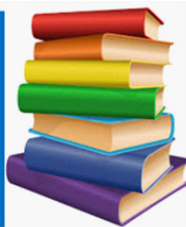


## TITLE IX COORDINATOR

Title IX mandates that every school district must have a Title IX Coordinator whose role is to develop policies to protect students, faculty, and staff as well as implement programs to educate, develop process for reporting and investigations, and dispute resolution procedures.



## Professional Learning



### Webinar Series for Commissioned Officers: 'Now What?'

#### Part 1 – March 24

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

With PASA and Now What Edu, explore [AASA's Learning 2025 Framework](#) in a three-part webinar series this spring. Hear from inspiring district leaders from across the state who will share their tools, targets, and techniques that drove their district innovations in the midst of COVID. In Webinar 1, **Dr. Brian Griffith**, Superintendent at Penns Valley Area SD, and **Dr. Chuck Herring**, DEI Director at South Fayette Township SD, will share the "culture" work they are doing in their districts. (Parts 2 and 3 TBA)

### PASA Leadership Forum: Leadership for Systems Change in Complex Times

Featuring **Dr. Michael Fullan**

March 28

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

NOW VIRTUAL

Approved for 40 PIL/Act 45 hours

- Move beyond current challenges
- Restore and build cohesion in our schools and communities
- Network with statewide colleagues

<https://www.pasa-net.org/leadforum>

### 2022 Webinar Series: Education in a New Era

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Sessions are focused on the "redesign characteristics" identified by the national initiative, "An American Imperative: A New Vision for Public Schools and are recorded.

- April 13: *Learners as Co-Authors of their Journeys: Student Voice and Choice via a High School Pathway Program* (FINAL IN THE SERIES)

### PASA Women's Caucus Spring Conference

*Leveraging Support for Social Emotional Well-Being*

May 22-24

Hotel Hershey

Approved for 30 PIL/Act 45 hours

Keynote presenters, educational sessions, networking... and more!

<https://www.pasa-net.org/wcconf>

### PA Educational Leadership Summit

Presented by the PA Principals Association & PASA

August 7-9 (Lancaster)

Approved for 40 PIL/Act 45 hours

<https://www.pasa-net.org/leadsummit>

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Introduction to the Superintendency - The First 100 Days

July 27 (virtual)

### New Superintendents' Academy Part 1

September 21-22 (PASA office)

### PASA/PSBA School Leadership Conference

Oct. 31 – Nov. 2 (Poconos)

### Southeast Women's Caucus Annual Dinner

November 15 (King of Prussia)

### New Superintendents' Academy Part 2

November 17-18

## ADVOCACY & INFORMATION UPDATE

PASA continues to both provide information to members and advocate on their behalf. Some of these activities since the January issue of *The PASA Flyer* was published included the following:

- We sent to lawmakers and the governor's office the latest issue of [PASA Points](#), a two-page paper highlighting education issues and priorities of school leaders across Pennsylvania. The March issue focused on the annual PASA/PASBO/PARSS Budget Survey and the historically high cost of mandates.
- We continued discussions with our lobbyist and other education associations on many issues and bills that were considered in the fall session in preparation for the spring legislative session which begins later this month.
- We continue to work with PSBA and PARSS staff concerning details for an Advocacy Day at the Capitol on April 25.
- We fielded many calls from members concerning community/district issues.

In addition, PASA continues to provide additional education news and information through the weekly Update on Mondays and monthly issues of *The PASA Flyer*.



## National Superintendent of the Year

Curtis Cain, superintendent of Wentzville (Mo.) School District, was named the 2022 AASA National Superintendent of the Year® during the National Conference on Education last month.

Cain has served as superintendent of Wentzville Schools, a district with more than 17,300 students, since 2013. Prior to joining Wentzville Schools, he served as the associate superintendent for educational services in the Shawnee Mission (Kan.) School District. He's about to seek a new adventure, having been named the next superintendent this summer of the Rockwood School District, also a St. Louis suburb.

Dr. Bridget O'Connell, superintendent of the Palisades SD and 2022 PA Superintendent of the Year, was among all other state Superintendent of the Year recipients recognized during the conference session.

## Early Learning Toolkit

AASA has released a toolkit aimed at supporting all providers of early learning, especially school districts, as they embrace the significant responsibility of providing early childhood education. Designed by [AASA's Early Learning Cohort](#), the [Early Childhood and Learning Toolkit](#) is a resource offering actionable practices that provide educators with a gateway to explore and define ways to make a positive difference in the lives of the nation's 50 million public school children and their families.

Established in 2017, the cohort consists of a group of superintendents, central office administrators, building principals, teachers and educational leaders from across the U.S. committed to supporting school systems nationwide.

## PA LICENSURE EXAM PREP. SESSION

The Center for Educational Leadership at Shippensburg University, in partnership with PASA, is again offering a low-cost, half-day study session to help interested educators prepare for the Superintendent's Letter exam.

**Saturday, March 26**  
**9:00 a.m. – noon**  
**Cumberland Valley HS**  
**Mechanicsburg**

**\$55 pp for Shippensburg University students and alumni**  
**\$65 pp for all others**

**See the PASA website for more information,**  
<https://www.pasa-net.org/prepsession>

## Live Well. Lead Well. Campaign

AASA has launched the *Live Well. Lead Well.* campaign, an initiative to provide support for public school district leaders as their school cultures are being threatened by the implications from the COVID-19 pandemic, racial inequities and threats of violence against their communities. The focus of the campaign is to provide superintendents and their staff with the tools and resources they need to help ease stressors of the job, support their important work, show appreciation for their leadership and fuel their spirit to keep them moving forward.

Key components of the campaign include: monthly opportunities for district leaders to connect with colleagues and focus on self-care and crisis communications materials and templates to help school systems address key issues in their communities. AASA also provided a wellness center at last month's national conference.

[Click here](#) for more information about the *Live Well. Lead Well.* campaign.

## In This Month's School Administrator

"We can't let ourselves be distracted by the political debates of the day. We must stay focused on ensuring our schools are places where everyone is welcomed, loved and valued. Leading with empathy will help us stay focused on those we serve and on our vision and the gratitude in our hearts." – AASA President Paul Imhoff, from "Redesigning Schools Post-Pandemic"

"AASA launched the Learning 2025 initiative with the aspirational goal that the commission's [National Commission on Student-Centered, Equity-Focused Education] recommendations will be in place in thousands of school districts by 2025. We want this to be a disruptive process where the success of several thousand systems will lead to the remaining systems quickly following suit." – AASA Executive Director Daniel Domenech, from "Our Imperative for 2025"

## School Safety & Crisis Planning Toolkit

In a continuing effort to help guide and support school district leaders who are navigating the impact of the COVID pandemic, AASA, The School Superintendents Association, has launched a modified version of its [School Safety and Crisis Planning Toolkit](#) for proactive best practices before, during and after a crisis.

## AASA Post-Pandemic Resources

The AASA website offers school leaders updated information and resources from the federal levels, including Congress, the CDC, the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture. [Click here](#) to see a list of resources and information provided by AASA.

**Join AASA today** and become part of a supported community of school leaders nationwide who advocate for public education. AASA, The School Superintendents Association, is the only national organization that represents and promotes the concerns of chief school administrators across the nation! **See the AASA website, [www.aasa.org](http://www.aasa.org), for details or contact the PASA office.**

At the start of each year, the governing bodies representing AASA, The School Superintendents Association, gather to determine federal policy positions for the organization.

In January 2022, AASA's Executive Committee had the unique opportunity to meet with U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development Roberto Rodríguez, and Acting Assistant Secretary Katherine Neas, who oversees the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). Both sides engaged in a robust conversation about alleviating the teacher shortage and the need to streamline federal data collection.

These annual conversations with key federal education officials as well as legislators and staff on Capitol Hill help ensure that [AASA's Legislative Agenda](#) continues to reflect the most important federal education policy and funding issues each year. It is also an opportunity for informal conversations with AASA's Advocacy Team, so they can gain clarity on our positions on a host of policy issues that are likely to arise.

This year's conversation focused on what AASA's position should be pertaining to the extension of universal school meals policies, as well as what policy levers exist for reducing bus driver shortages. At the end of the three-day meeting, the Executive Committee voted to approve the Legislative Agenda.

In February, prior to the annual National Conference on Education, the AASA Governing Board meets to review the Legislative Agenda and debate potential edits, add clarifying language, and eventually adopt the agenda. These conversations among Governing Board members reveal the diversity of AASA's membership and serve as an important function of why the finally adopted agenda is so extensive, specific and nuanced.

The guiding principle of [AASA's 2022 Legislative Agenda](#) stems from the important role the federal government stands to play in creating equitable learning opportunities for all students. This starts with equitable policy and resources, both of which should remain available to all students, schools and states. It also includes the protection and preservation of federal education fund-

ing when compared with other federal investments.

Of note, this year's agenda calls out a specific need for federal policy and funding to support districts' efforts to provide mental health services for students, staff and families. It also delves into the critical supports for equitable federal funding mechanisms, including key federal programs such as Title I and IDEA, as well as a robust conversation to revise and strengthen the efficacy of poverty indicators within federal education programs.

In addition, it highlights the importance of having federal education policy address the educator shortage and the acknowledgement that schools need a pipeline of high-quality educators to operate, function and provide equitable education to students including support for existing and innovative instructional models.

Unlike other education associations, AASA's advocacy positions are completely driven by our members. While it's not always easy or popular to relay the complexity of some positions, AASA is respected by all federal policy entities it engages with for truly representing the views of the field we are proud to represent.

## COMMUNICATIONS TIP OF THE MONTH

"School transformation is a process, not an event. District leaders need to be wary of trying to implement change too rapidly. The first step toward successful change is about messaging. Education leaders need to explain to staff, parents and community members why change is needed and assure them they will have ongoing opportunities to provide input and advice as the process moves forward." – Bill Daggett, founder of the Successful Practices Network (NY), from "Preparing Students for Their Future, Not Our Past," as published in the March issue of *School Administrator*. This month's issue examines how AASA's Learning 2025 initiative serves as a blueprint for student-centered, equity-focused schooling.

## THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

*For Educational Leaders, By Educational Leaders*

### PASA MENTOR COACHING PROGRAM



Our superintendents and assistant superintendents continue to be challenged in ways we never imagined possible. The pandemic related complexities above and beyond the "normal" requirements for leading a school district are overwhelming, especially to those who are just beginning their roles as superintendents or assistant superintendents. The support of an experienced current or former Pennsylvania-based superintendent can be especially beneficial to the new career superintendent or assistant superintendent's peace of mind, decision-making, and goal achievement.

PASA has developed and is piloting a mentor coaching program to assist with the unexpected and normal challenges of the job. Our program is based upon various international and national mentoring and coaching models. It provides a highly personalized approach, customized to the mentee's needs and/or goals, in which an experienced, skilled mentor coach serves as the mentee's thought partner.

Most successful executives, athletes, musicians, etc. utilize an experienced and skilled mentor and/or coach for ongoing guidance and training. You, too, deserve this opportunity.

For more information about PASA's program, visit our website at <https://www.pasa-net.org/mentor> or contact Connie Kindler at [ckindler@pasa-net.org](mailto:ckindler@pasa-net.org).



# HEALTH, SAFETY & EQUITY UPDATES

## **CDC Guidance on Masks**

According to the CDC's most recent guidance, most people in the U.S. (about 72%) live in areas where those who are healthy do not need to wear masks indoors. The CDC's "[COVID-19 community level](#)" metrics are based on three sets of data: new COVID hospitalizations, hospital capacity and new COVID cases. In the same guidance, the CDC clarified that the TSA mask mandate for public transportation does not apply to public or private schools, including school buses.

## **Update on Mask Mandates in the Courts**

The Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has dismissed as moot lawsuits against the Upper St. Clair and North Allegheny School districts over mask mandates. The plaintiffs were seeking an order requiring masks in schools after the boards in both districts made masking optional.

## **Shortage of School Counselors, Psychologists**

According to a recent Education Week analysis of the most recent data, just 8 percent of districts met the National Association of School Psychologists' recommended ratio of one school psychologist to 500 students, and only 14 percent met the ratio of one school counselor to 250 students recommended by the American School Counselor Association.

## **Social Skills & Emotional Maturity Levels**

According to a recent national survey conducted by the Ed-Week Research Center, 39 percent of surveyed educators said that the social skills and emotional maturity levels of students are much less advanced than was true in 2019.

## **Teachers of Color and Social-Emotional Learning**

Teachers of color tend to bring specific practices and mindsets into the classroom that benefit all students, a new study finds—the latest addition to the [body of research](#) that emphasizes the importance of recruiting and retaining these teachers, who make up just 21 percent of the workforce. [The new study](#) reaffirms that teachers of color are linked to positive academic, social-emotional, and behavioral student outcomes and finds that these effects are driven, at least in part, by mindsets and practices aligned to what's known as culturally responsive teaching. (from [Education Week](#), 2/4/22).

## **From the PDE: ESSER/GEER Extra**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) offers ESSER/GEER Extra, a frequent communication that provides school communities with reminders, resources, information, and guidance as they develop plans, implement, and monitor their Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds. [Click here](#) to access information.

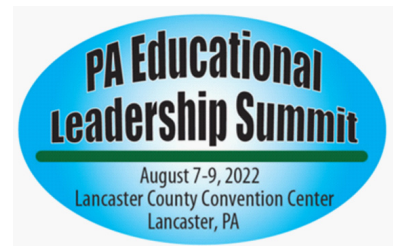
**Deadline: June 15**

## CALL FOR PRESENTERS, STUDENT MUSICAL GROUPS AT FALL CONFERENCE

PASA and PSBA are now seeking relevant and compelling sessions presentations on topics that would appeal to a broad school leader audience during the 2022 PASA/PSBA School Leadership Conference, a two-day event scheduled for **October 31 - November 1** in a new venue – **Kalahari Poconos**. [Click here](#) for information.

Does your district have a musical, dance or theatrical group that you want to be highlighted at the annual Student Showcase? Selected acts will perform during the evening of Monday, October 31 as part of a celebration of our students from across the state. [Click here](#) for information.

## **\*\*REGISTRATION IS OPEN\*\***



for school leaders and district leadership teams  
to learn, network and plan

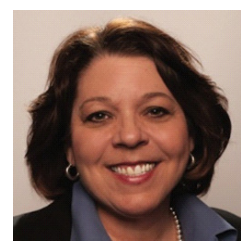
**approved for 40 PIL/Act 45 hours**  
(up to 40 additional hours available with Ed Camp registration)

Keynote speakers, high quality breakout sessions, table talks on hot topics, Ed Camp and district team planning and job-alike sessions will provide practical ideas that can be immediately reviewed and discussed at the summit and utilized at the district level.

## **KEYNOTES**



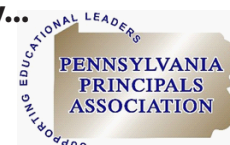
**RUBY PAYNE**



**MURIEL SUMMERS**

<https://www.pasa-net.org/leadsummit>

Sponsored by...



Each month, PASA, in coordination with the Technology Committee and CoSN (Consortium for School Networking), will publish a monthly technology-focused news item of interest to members of PASA.



## TOPIC - LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES TO ASSURE STUDENT DATA PRIVACY: THE TRUSTED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT SEAL

### *The EmpowerED Superintendent eWebinar Series*

The next episode of Season 4 of the EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar series, scheduled for **Monday, March 14**, at 5:00 p.m., focuses on "Leadership Strategies To Assure Student Data Privacy: The Trusted Learning Environment Seal."

The concerns and challenges involved in protecting student data privacy have always been critically important to school operations. However, as schools today increasingly rely on digital tools for teaching, learning and school administration, assuring student data privacy is now more urgent than ever. One strategy many school districts have used is successfully completing the process of earning The Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal. The TLE Program is the nation's only privacy framework designed specifically for school systems.

In this webinar, two leading-edge school leaders share recommended leadership strategies to assure student data privacy and also will relate the processes their districts employed to earn the Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal. You are invited to join in the conversation with Dr. Lori Rapp (Lewisville Independent SD, TX) and Dr. Oskar Scheikl (Rockingham County Public Schools, VA). Linnette Attai, Project Director for CoSN's Privacy Initiative and the Trusted Learning Environment Program, serves as the panel moderator. Free registration for the March 14 webinar is now available at <https://home.edweb.net/supers>.

The EmpowerED series is co-hosted by CoSN, AASA and edWeb.net, and sponsored by ClassLink.

### **Interoperability: Seamlessly Sharing Data, Content, and Services Within School District Systems or Applications**

The previous episode of the EmpowerED Superintendent edWebinar series, aired on February 14, featured Dr. Doug Brubaker (Supt., Texarkana Independent SD, TX), Dr. Michael T. Conner (Supt., Middletown Public Schools, CT, and Learning 2025 National Commissioner), Mary Wegner (Asst. Prof, Supt., and Educational Leadersp Coordinator, School of Education at the University of Alaska Southeast), and Paula Maylahn (CoSN's Project Director for Interoperability Issues), who shared successful policies, strategies, and training solutions they have implemented and recommend to help districts assure the interoperability of their academic and operational systems.

**Free access to webinar recording:** If you missed this webinar, you can still access the recording at <https://home.edweb.net/supers/>. You will also be able to use this link to access free recordings and podcasts of multiple previously broadcast webinars in the EmpowerED Superintendent series.

### **CoSN Resources**

Resources referenced during the February 14 edWebinar include:

- \* [CoSN Critical Focus Area One Pager](#): *Interoper-What? The importance of interoperability in School Systems*
- \* [CoSN Interoperability Toolkit](#)
- \* **Financing Technology Innovations - Strategies and Tools**: Links to tools to assist in calculating Total Cost of Ownership & Value of Investment are listed on the CoSN EmpowerED Superintendent web page at <https://www.cosn.org/edtech-topics/empowered-superintendents/>.

### **CoSN 2022 Annual Conference**

The CoSN 2022 Annual Conference will take place on April 11-13, 2022, in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference will be a hybrid experience to accommodate all who wish to meet safely in-person as well as those who elect to participate remotely. You can preview the conference program and access registration information at <https://cosnconference.org/>.

The Consortium for School Networking ([CoSN](#)) and its state affiliate chapter, Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology ([PAECT](#)) are honored to support the work of current and aspiring superintendents and district leadership teams in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations. If your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN or getting more involved with CoSN, please [membership@cosn.org](mailto:membership@cosn.org).



## “ NOTEWORTHY QUOTES ”

“Pennsylvania’s public schools routinely conduct certain teacher training exercises that are required under state and federal mandates. My resolution calls for a comprehensive study to determine if the training programs can be streamlined by eliminating certain programs. By doing that, we can create a more efficient training process that saves time and reduces the cost to taxpayers.” – Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R-Berks/Lehigh), sponsor of HR 163, a resolution adopted unanimously by the House that directs the Joint State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee to review the training mandates for educators in Pennsylvania’s public school system and evaluate any potential negative impacts of ending certain training mandates and include any recommendations relating to their elimination. *(PASA supported the resolution and will serve on the advisory committee.)*

“Sen. Argall discussed the governor’s proposal for a one-time \$204 million temporary property tax rebate fix using federal stimulus dollars; and Sen. John DiSanto’s (R-Dauphin) constitutional amendment that would completely eliminate all school district property taxes. He asked how much property tax dollars would need to be replaced if all school district property taxes were eliminated. Matt Knittel, executive director of the IFO, said the IFO’s latest projection for both residential and business school district property taxes is \$15.8 billion and \$9.4 billion for residential homeowners.” – report from Pennsylvania Legislative Services on the Senate Appropriations Committee’s public hearing with the Independent Fiscal Office on Feb. 2

### **On the Release of 2021 PA Testing Scores...**

“This year’s results are anything but standard. We recognize that the global COVID-19 pandemic brought tremendous challenges to the school year, impacting students, teachers and staff alike, as we worked to protect the public health and safety of everyone in our classrooms. As Pennsylvania reports this federally required data, it urges caution in interpreting results given the unique learning conditions over the past few years.” – Dr. Sherri Smith, PDE deputy secretary for elementary and secondary education, on the recent release of 2021 state test scores (from a press release)

“The department ‘urges caution in interpreting results given the unique learning conditions over the past few years.’ I could not disagree more. We should be worried because these tests confirm what we have seen with our children over the last two years. No parent should have to wait a year to find out if their student is struggling in school. The proof is clear. The learning loss our children have experienced, by no fault of their own, is immense and very real.” – House Speaker Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster), from a press release

“These test results are going to be an anomaly, and it’s going to be difficult to ascertain anything conclusive about them.” – Dr. Mark DiRocco, PASA Executive Director, on the 2021 testing results

## A MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT! 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:  
**[www.pasa-net.org/legalservices](http://www.pasa-net.org/legalservices)**  
to read more about it.



## 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, public school employers, and those seeking positions in school administration, PASA provides on its website the “[PASA Career Center](#),” a listing of school administrator job openings, both in Pennsylvania and in the 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 the [Webmaster](#). 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.)*



# MEMBER NEWS

## REGION 3

**Tamara Allen-Thomas** has been appointed superintendent of the Clairton City SD, effective July 1. She has been serving as principal and CAO with the Penn Hills Charter School of Entrepreneurship. Allen-Thomas will replace **Ginny Hunt**, who is retiring after 42 years in education and as the district's superintendent since 2013.

## REGION 6

**Mark Loucks** has resigned his position as superintendent of the Franklin Area SD. Loucks has accepted the position of superintendent in the Claysburg-Kimmel SD beginning July 1 and will start working with the district in May. **Patrick Gavin** has been appointed acting superintendent in Franklin Area.

## REGION 15

**Dr. Patricia Sanker** is currently serving as interim superintendent of the Carlisle Area SD and will serve through June 30. She replaced **Christine Spielbauer**, who resigned from the position in December.

## REGION 18

**Jane Serino**, superintendent of the Wyoming Area SD, has announced she will retire, effective June 6.

## REGION 20

**Dr. Dennis Riker**, superintendent of the Nazareth Area SD, has announced he will retire, effective July 4. Riker has worked in public education for 36 years and has served as the district's superintendent since 2012.

## REGION 22

**Dr. Robert Fraser** is leaving his position as superintendent of the Council Rock SD, effective April 30. Fraser, who currently is on medical leave, has served as the district's leader since 2015. **Dr. Susan Elliott**, the district's assistant superintendent, is now serving as acting superintendent.

## REGION 24

**Dr. Emilie Lonardi**, superintendent of the Downingtown Area SD, has announced she will retire at the end of the 2021-22 school year. She has served as a superintendent for 24 years, the last five with Downingtown Area, served as PASA president in 2017-18, and was the 2017 PA Superintendent of the Year.

Please report member news to PASA at [pasa@pasa-net.org](mailto: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](http://www.pasa-net.org) (Click on the "Leadership Development" button and look for "Career Center.")

## PASA CALENDAR

All programs and meetings are virtual.

See the PASA web site at [www.pasa-net.org](http://www.pasa-net.org).

## MARCH

- 21 Legislative Committee meeting
- 26 Superintendent Letter Exam Prep Session
- 28 PASA Leadership Forum (virtual)
- 29 Legislative Committee meeting

## APRIL

- 4 Legislative Committee meeting
- 5 Webinar: Social-Emotional Well-Being
- 6 Professional Development Committee meeting
- Women's Caucus Board meeting
- 7 Advocacy Committee meeting
- Board of Governors' meeting
- 8 Board of Governors' liaison meeting
- 11 Legislative Committee meeting
- 13 Webinar: Education in a New Era (final in the series)
- 15 PASA office closed
- 20 Superintendent Forum/Book Study Session 3
- 25 Advocacy Day at the Capitol

## MAY

- 22-24 PASA Women's Caucus Conference (Hershey)
- 30 PASA office closed

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Leading with an open heart requires pathos. Nothing bespeaks an open heart like passion. Leaders who are passionate about their work recognize their work depends on their passion for people. Wear your heart on your sleeve. Show your feelings openly. Take on the perspective of another person. Experience people's emotions. Suffer and celebrate with your team." – Allan Mucerino, superintendent of the Alvord Unified SD (CA), from "Speaking the Lingua Franca of Contemporary Leadership", as published in the March issue of *School Administrator*.

Learn together...

Grow together...

Lead together!

Take advantage of the numerous professional learning programs PASA is offering for school administrators in 2021!

See the list on page 11